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16th July 2026
Internal Reference: 260628
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **12/06/2026**.
We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Please ensure you quote the Internal Reference number above in any future correspondence.

Please accept the Trust's apologies for the delay and inconvenience you have experienced regarding your FOIA request.

Your Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information regarding the use of Fascia Iliaca Compartment Blocks (FICB) within your ambulance service.

1. Does your ambulance service currently authorise the administration of FICB in the pre-hospital environment?
2. If yes:
 - a. Is FICB available routinely, through a specialist practitioner pathway, or only as part of a research study?
 - b. Which clinician grades are authorised to administer FICB?
 - c. Is the technique landmark-guided, ultrasound-guided, or both?
 - d. What training and competency requirements are required before clinicians can administer FICB?
 - e. Is there a formal process for maintaining competency and preventing skill fade?
3. If no:
 - a. Has the service previously considered implementing FICB?



- b. What were the principal barriers to implementation?
- c. Are there any current or future plans to introduce FICB within the service?
- 4. Does your service currently utilise point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in any capacity for pre-hospital clinicians? If so, please briefly outline its use.
- 5. Please provide any current clinical guidelines, policies, SOPs, governance documents, or training materials relating to FICB that can be disclosed under the Act.

Formal Response

1. SECAMB does not currently authorise the administration of Fascia Iliaca Compartment Blocks (FICB) in the pre-hospital environment.

2. As SECAMB does not currently authorise the administration of FICB in the pre-hospital environment, there is no routine, specialist practitioner or research pathway in place for FICB. Accordingly, the Trust does not hold information relating to authorised clinician grades, technique, training or competency requirements for FICB administration.

3. The Trust has considered implementing FICB however, current implementation barriers identified include initial training requirements and ongoing re-validation necessary to maintain safe clinical practice. The Trust however, would like to introduce this in the future although no formal implementation plan is currently in place.

4. Yes. Within SECAMB, point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is currently utilised by Critical Care Paramedics (CCPs) only. The Trust uses Vscan Air portable ultrasound units, which connect wirelessly to an iPad. The manufacturer's published brochure has been included as an attachment.

The Vscan device is used for ultrasound-guided vascular access; medical and traumatic chest examinations, primarily to assess for pneumothorax by visualising lung sliding, comet-tail artefacts and pleural movement; and assessment of cardiac movement during cardiac arrest, particularly in cases of pulseless electrical activity (PEA), to help determine whether this represents true PEA or a haemodynamic low-flow PEA, as different treatment approaches may be required. This assessment is generally obtained using a sub-sternal ultrasound view and may be supported by apical long-axis and short-axis views.

During each rota cycle, all CCPs undertake at least three governance training days, which include skills assurance sessions. These sessions involve practice using simulation manikins and devices, or live volunteers. One clinical practice guideline highlighting the use of ultrasound has also been included with this response.

5. The Trust does not hold any current clinical guidelines, SOPs, governance documents or training materials relating to FICB





Next steps

Some information held by the Trust is routinely published on our [website](#) and may be of assistance.

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Requests for an internal review should be submitted within **40 working days** of the date of this response and should be sent to:

Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance at FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

The internal review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in handling your original request, ordinarily the Trust's Data Protection Officer. We aim to complete internal reviews within **20 working days** of receipt.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of the internal review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO generally expects complaints to be raised promptly following the completion of an internal review.

The easiest way to raise a complaint is via the ICO's website:
www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Alternatively, you may write to:
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Corporate Governance Team
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust

