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22nd July 2026
Internal Reference: 260653
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 29/06/2026.
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.

Your Request

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please could you provide the following information relating to drug and alcohol testing within substance misuse and/or addiction recovery services commissioned or delivered by South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust:

1. Does the organisation commission or directly deliver substance misuse and/or addiction recovery services that include drug and/or alcohol testing of service users?
2. If yes, which testing methods are used (e.g. urine immunoassay, oral fluid screening, hair testing, laboratory confirmation)?
3. What safeguards or procedural protections are in place for service users who receive a positive screening result — for example: (a) Is confirmatory laboratory testing (e.g. LC-MS/MS or GC-MS) routinely carried out before any action is taken?
(b) Are service users informed of the specific cutoff levels and the possibility of false positives?
(c) Is there a documented appeals or challenge process?



4. Does the organisation hold or require its commissioned providers to hold a drug and alcohol testing policy? If so, please provide a copy.

5. Has the organisation received any complaints, formal grievances, or legal claims relating to drug testing outcomes in its commissioned substance misuse services in the past five years?

6. Additionally, does South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust have a workplace drug and alcohol testing policy that applies to employees? If so, please provide a copy.

Formal Response

The Trust does not commission or directly deliver substance misuse and/or addiction recovery services that include drug and/or alcohol testing of service users. Therefore, questions 2, 3(a)–(c), 4 insofar as it relates to commissioned substance misuse providers, and 5 are not applicable.

In response to question 6, the Trust confirms that it has a Substance Misuse and Dependency Policy and Procedure that applies to employees. This information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as it is reasonably accessible to you by way of the Trust website [here](#).

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



Saving Lives,
Serving Our Communities

Chair: Colin Dennis, Interim CEO: Jen Allan