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25 August 2026
Internal Reference: 260811
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **07/08/2026**.
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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to incidents where an ambulance was dispatched to a person injured while playing football.

Please provide, for each of the last five complete calendar years and for the period available in the current year:

1. The total number of ambulance call-outs where the recorded incident involved a person being injured while playing football.
2. Where recorded, the age of the patient, grouped into the following bands:
 - Under 18
 - 18-24
 - 25-34
 - 35-44
 - 45-54
 - 55+
3. Where recorded, the number of football-related call-outs involving a head injury, concussion, suspected concussion or other head trauma, with a yearly breakdown.



If football-specific records are not held, please provide any data held for sports-related injuries where football can reasonably be identified through incident coding, clinical notes, dispatch records or other routinely recorded information.

Formal Response

The Trust can confirm that this information exists. However, where an output represents fewer than 5 individuals or incidents in the period requested, we have not provided exact figures. This practice is known as data blurring, which serves to mitigate against the risk of possible re-identification of individual data subjects via data recombination (sometimes referred to as jigsawing). This risk is assessed in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Anonymisation Code of Practice.

Date Range: 01/01/2021 - 31/07/2026

Count of Ambulance Callouts: The total count of incidents where an ambulance was dispatched and the call notes or clinical records contained the phrase 'playing football'

Count of Head Injuries: A subset of **count of ambulance callouts** where **CrewConditionCode1** or **CrewConditionCode2** include either - 'M22-ljury of Head' or 'M29-Head Injury'

Please refer to the tables below:

Year	Count of Head Injuries
2021	23
2022	33
2023	32
2024	33
2025	40
2026	14

Year	Age Range	Count of Ambulance Callouts
2021	18-24	58
2021	25-34	57
2021	35-44	19
2021	45-54	6
2021	55+	14
2021	Not Recorded	<5
2021	Under 18	89





2022	18-24	35
2022	25-34	52
2022	35-44	18
2022	45-54	8
2022	55+	9
2022	Not Recorded	<5
2022	Under 18	118
2023	18-24	49
2023	25-34	60
2023	35-44	25
2023	45-54	13
2023	55+	19
2023	Not Recorded	<5
2023	Under 18	158
2024	18-24	58
2024	25-34	51
2024	35-44	36
2024	45-54	17
2024	55+	13
2024	Not Recorded	<5
2024	Under 18	148
2025	18-24	53
2025	25-34	59
2025	35-44	39
2025	45-54	16
2025	55+	17
2025	Under 18	155
2026	18-24	34
2026	25-34	31
2026	35-44	14
2026	45-54	11
2026	55+	9
2026	Not Recorded	<5
2026	Under 18	77





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

