South East Coast Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters
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Tel: 0300 123 0999
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24 August 2026
Internal Reference: 260756
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 24/07/2026.
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

On 24th November 2025, an allegation of malpractice was made to the CERAD awarding body, FutureQuals, in relation to the administration of a driving course within Secamb.

I request copies of all documents relating to this incident, under the FOI legislation.

This will include, but not limited to, all emails, statements, reports, Teams transcripts and any other relevant documents and information.

Formal Response

Thank you for your request for information concerning an allegation of malpractice reported to FutureQuals on 24 November 2025 in relation to the administration of a driving course within South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAmb).

You have requested copies of all documents relating to this matter, including but not limited to emails, statements, reports, Microsoft Teams transcripts and other relevant documents and information.

Following consideration of your request, the Trust is unable to disclose the information requested and is applying the following exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

The information requested contains personal data relating to identifiable individuals, including staff members and other parties involved in the matter. Disclosure of this information into the public domain would contravene the principles of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the FOIA.

Section 41 – Information Provided in Confidence

Some of the information requested was obtained and shared in circumstances giving rise to an expectation of confidence, including statements, communications and investigatory material provided to facilitate the examination of the allegation. Disclosure would constitute an actionable breach of confidence and is therefore exempt under Section 41 of the FOIA.

Public Interest Test

The Trust recognises the public interest in openness, transparency and accountability regarding the handling of allegations of malpractice and the operation of training and assessment processes.

However, there is a stronger public interest in protecting the integrity of investigatory processes, maintaining the confidence of witnesses and participants, ensuring that individuals are willing to provide information during investigations, and safeguarding the rights and privacy of those involved. Disclosure of the requested documents would be likely to prejudice the effectiveness of future investigations and could result in unfair intrusion into the privacy of individuals connected with the matter.

The Trust has therefore concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Accordingly, the Trust is refusing this request under Sections 40(2) and 41.

The Trust has considered whether any information can be disclosed in a redacted form. However, the records relating to this matter comprise investigatory correspondence, witness accounts, statements and communications that are intrinsically linked to identifiable individuals and specific circumstances. In this case, the removal of names and obvious identifiers would not sufficiently anonymise the information, as individuals may remain identifiable through their role, involvement or the context of the information. Disclosure of the remaining material would therefore still contravene the data protection principles.

The Trust has also considered whether extracts of the information could be disclosed. However, due to the nature of the investigation, meaningful disclosure is not possible without revealing information exempt under Sections 40(2) and 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Accordingly, the Trust considers that the exempt information cannot reasonably be separated from any potentially disclosable information.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an internal review. Requests for internal review should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this response.

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