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20 August 2026
Internal Reference: 260806
Email:

Dear ,

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on **05/08/2026**.
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

I am requesting existing CAD or reporting-system metrics relating to **planned home births** where emergency ambulance attendance was required. Please exclude unplanned out-of-hospital births (e.g., precipitous labour / birth before arrival) and other obstetric emergencies occurring at a domestic address, where system flags or dispatch codes allow.

For each of the past five complete financial years (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2025), broken down by year, please provide:

1. **Total number of 999 calls / CAD incidents relating to planned home births.**
2. **Breakdown of these incidents by response category (Category 1, Category 2, Category 3, Category 4).**
3. **Number of these incidents resulting in conveyance / transfer to hospital.**
4. **Number of these hospital transfers conveyed under emergency conditions / blue lights.**
5. **Mean / average response time (Call Start to First Vehicle on Scene) and any existing percentile response-time metrics (e.g., 90th percentile), where held.**



6. Aggregated count of Serious Incidents (SIs) or Patient Safety Incidents recorded in your risk-management system (e.g., Datix) linked to these incidents, where centrally searchable.

Clarifications (Sections 12, 16 and 40 FOIA)

- If your CAD system does not include a specific structured flag or incident type for “planned home birth”, please use the closest available structured dispatch code (e.g., AMPDS Protocol 24 or relevant NHS Pathways code) and confirm which code(s) or flags were used.
- If identifying planned home births requires manual review of free-text CAD notes and would exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please provide the dataset using only structured system flags / codes available in your reporting database, and advise under Section 16 what automated reporting is possible.
- If cross-referencing CAD incidents with Datix records would exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please omit Point 6 and fulfil Points 1–5.
- If any cell contains fewer than 5 incidents and engages Section 40(2), please suppress the value using standard notation (e.g., “<5”) rather than aggregating categories or years.

Formal Response

The Trust does not have a specific flag within DCIQ to identify incidents relating to 'Planned at Home Births'. The Flags that can be used to make a central search fall into the remit of exclusion from your request as they are:

- Delivery at home against advice, with birthing/newborn complications.
- Delivery of Baby without HCP Present.

Please refer to the table below:

Date Range: 01/04/2020 - 31/03/2025

As a result, a keyword search with the term 'home birth' has been used to search Electronic Patient Care records to assist with the request.

The Trust does not have Blue Light data available for this time period.

Count of Incidents	81
Count of Incidents Cat1	62
Count of Incidents Cat2	13
Count of Incidents Cat3	5
Count of Incidents Cat4	0
Count of Incidents Other	1





Count of Incidents Conveyed	52
Average Call Answered to Arrival on Scene	00:13:00
90th Centile Call Answered to Arrival on Scene	00:23:38

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

