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23rd February 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/02/04.

You requested the following information:

**I would be obliged if you could tell me the number of hours training or education an individual ambulance clinician (front line clinical staff of any grade) receives on the assessment of mental capacity at initial training/induction and annually thereafter, provided by the Trust (please do not include training or education delivered as part of a university course).**

The new entrant Emergency Care Support Workers (ECSW)s receive an hours familiarisation on the Mental Capacity Act. They would not be expected to complete an assessment on a patient under their current Scope of Practice.

The staff on the Transition to Practise Course also receive an hours refresher on the Act as a follow-on to their university education.

Within Key Skills training (annual refresher training) , the discussion group formally debates the elements of the Act for approximately five minutes, however during the day's key skills programme there is reference to and on-going reinforcement of the Mental Capacity Act during patient simulation.

I hope you find this information helpful.

If, for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response, you are entitled to pursue any dissatisfaction through South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust's (SECamb) Internal Review Procedure at:

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust  
40-42 Friars Walk

Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 2XW  
Email: [complaints@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints@secamb.nhs.uk)

Should you remain unhappy with the outcome of any such internal review , you may request a decision from the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If I can be of further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator  
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust