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25th February 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/02/09.

You requested the following information:

Q1 - How many of your employees in your Trust have been signed off work because of anxiety/stress/depression or other psychiatric illnesses in the past 12 months and every year for the past 5 years? (if the same employee is off over a period where it changes years, please count them once in both years)

Please see the table below which shows the number of staff who have had time off work due to anxiety/ stress/ depression or other psychiatric illnesses for the last five calendar years.

Jan to Dec	Sickness absence (headcount)	Total staff (headcount)
2010	207	3174
2011	271	3121
2012	251	3361
2013	335	3589
2014	343	3750

I would like to advise that we are in regular contact with our staff when they are off on a long-term sickness. They are offered support and counselling if necessary.

Q2 – Please give the total number days lost due to all staff sickness and ill health in the past 12 months and every year for 5 years?

Please see the table below which shows the total number of days lost due to all staff sickness and ill health for the last five calendar years.

Jan to Dec	Full time equivalent days lost
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2010	61520.75
2011	58720.97
2012	54373.30
2013	59724.45
2014	62183.19

Q3 – Please give the total number of days lost due to absences because of anxiety/stress/depression or other psychiatric illnesses in the past 12 months and every year for the past 5 years?

Please see the table below which shows the total number of days lost to absences because of anxiety/ stress/ depression or other psychiatric illnesses for the last five calendar years.

Jan to Dec	Full time equivalent days lost
2010	7071.87
2011	9611.64
2012	9804.84
2013	10594.46
2014	11158.76

Q4 - What's the longest time someone has been continuously signed off work at your Trust, because of anxiety/stress/depression or other psychiatric illnesses?

The longest time a member of staff was signed off for anxiety/ stress/ depression or other psychiatric illness was 743 calendar days.

Q5 - How much do you estimate it has cost you having your employees signed off because of anxiety/stress/depression or other psychiatric illnesses in the past 12 months and every year for the past 5 years? (i.e. costs of covering staff)

We do not record this information.

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

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