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20th February 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/02/01.

You requested the following information:

Please could you provide the most recent ambulance response times for Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh broken down by ward if possible.

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECAMB) has a national target to respond to 75% of 'Red' (life-threatening) category incidents within 8 minutes. If the first response is not a resource able to transport and a transport is required, then one able to should arrive within 19 minutes of it being requested. 'Green' (non-life threatening) category incidents comprise those conditions which need to be attended quickly, but which will not deteriorate or suffer by a slightly slower response. These also include non- life threatening conditions which are generally assistance calls in which someone needs help - perhaps to get up following a fall where no injury has been sustained - or where a minor or non- clinical issue is the prime cause for the call. There are two local response targets for Green 2 & 4 responses: G2 – with a target of 30minutes and G4 with a target of 60 minutes.

Please note that we do not have differential response time targets as such, for the various geographical areas in SECAMB; our response times will be affected by the geography and frequency of Red category incidents.

While response times are important, what is also vital is the treatment patients receive once our clinicians arrive at the scene of an emergency. We are pleased that the government now places a greater emphasis on patient outcomes as well as response times. This is something we had been calling for, for a number of years.

Along with all parts of the NHS, SECAMB has been and continues to be extremely busy. We recognise that there can be variation in our performance in terms of response times throughout the year. While every effort is made to meet our performance targets at all times, variation can exist because of challenging weather conditions or unanticipated increases in demand.

SECamb staff work extremely hard to meet this increase in demand and the Trust is committed to providing an excellent service to our patients across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

I would like to stress that we continually look at ways to ensure that we meet our performance standards even at a local level and will look into cases which have longer than average response times to establish whether more can be done to get to patients quicker.

Please find the attached spreadsheet which shows the numbers of Red 1, Red 2 , G2999 and G4 999 responses made, Red 1, Red 2 , G2 999 and G4 999 performance and average performance details for all of the parliamentary wards in the Shepway Local authority District. This information covers the period from 1st July 2014 to 31st January 2015 inclusive.

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