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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/15/02/02.

You requested the following information in connection with our Make Ready Centre in Paddock Wood:

1) When on the way to the Make Ready Centre for cleaning/ replenishment, is an ambulance allowed to be diverted onto an emergency call?

All vehicles are can be utilised for an emergency call at any point during the shift regardless of need for cleaning or replenishment , if they are the nearest or only available resource. In addition with the make ready system, it is rare that a vehicle will need to return to replenish due to the stock levels carried on board.

2) When on the way back from the Make Ready Centre to its nominated Ambulance Community Response Post (or whichever location serves as its base), is an ambulance allowed to be diverted onto an emergency call before it reaches that base?

While enroute to an Ambulance Community Response Post, the vehicle can be used at any point if it is the nearest or only available resource.

3) If either such diversions occurs, is an ambulance permitted to use its siren?

For all of the above, when given a call the ambulance can use full emergency procedures, i.e. Blue lights and sirens and make use of the appropriate exemptions.

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