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17th April 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/03/21.

You requested the following information:

Question 1

How many suspensions of ambulance officers within your service commenced in the past five financial years (overall total); 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015?

92 employees were suspended from February 2011 to March 2015. Formal logging of suspensions began in 2011.

Question 2

How many were suspended on full pay in the past five years?

All 92 suspensions were on full pay.

Question 3

How many are currently suspended on full pay?

5 employees are currently suspended on full pay.

Question 4

How much has the suspension of ambulance officers cost your service in the past five financial years/past financial year (eg cost to organisation and salaries)?

Due to the number and complexity of cases, we cannot provide the information as requested on the grounds of the exemption contained within s.12 of the FOIA. It would take considerable time and resource to calculate the cost which would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours as set down in the guidance on the application of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees).

Question 5

Since April 2010 to date, what is the longest period any ambulance officer (including rank) has been suspended for?

763 days. Rank = Emergency Care Support Worker.

Question 6

Of those suspended at the moment, what is the longest period any ambulance officer (including rank) has been suspended for?

The longest current suspension is from 11 April 2014 to date. Rank = Emergency Care Support Worker/Student Paramedic.

Question 7

What type of allegation (misconduct, assault, etc.,) have ambulance officers been suspended over (breakdown of number of officers for each offence)?

Allegations **include but are not limited to** inappropriate conduct, bullying and harassment, clinical negligence. Further breakdown requested is not possible, again due to time needed to complete this plus potential to be able to identify individual employees from specific allegations.

Question 8

How many ambulance officers suspended during the five years resigned before disciplinary proceedings?

12 employees resigned before disciplinary proceedings.

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