



40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

Tel: 0300 123 0999
Email: foi@secamb.nhs.uk

13th July 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/06/20.

You requested the following information:

I wish to request information about the money spent by your trust on private firms for ambulance services.

Specifically, I would like information on:

1. The amount spent by your Trust on private and voluntary services to provide 999 care. This should be broken down, year by year, for the last five years.

We are continuing to look at ways in which we can reduce our reliance on the use of private ambulance services and always prioritise using our own staff whenever possible. However, along with all ambulance services nationally, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb) does use private ambulance providers when faced with high levels of demand, when experiencing high call volume or during periods of bad weather.

We have robust governance arrangements in place for the procurement of private ambulance services. While working on our behalf any private provider will be subject to a continuous monitoring and assessment process, to ensure they are providing a high level of service.

Please see the table below which shows the breakdown of expenditure between private ambulance providers and voluntary ambulance services per year for the last five financial years.

	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
A & E	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	1415
Private Provider	£1,179	£3,568	£4,640	£7,623	£11,293
Voluntary	£505	£1,529	£2,206	£2,633	£1,049
Total	£1,684	£5,097	£6,846	£10,256	£12,342

2. Of this money, the breakdown of money spent between private firms and voluntary services for each year.

Please see this information in the above table.

3. The details of what these private organisations do for the Trust, and what companies and services are involved.

Private ambulance providers are used when the Trust is experiencing high levels of demand, high call volume or during periods of bad weather.

The suppliers we are currently using are:

Medical Services Limited (MSL)
UK Specialist Ambulance Services (UKSAS)
Surrey Ambulance Services Ltd (SITES)
British Red Cross (BRC)
St John Ambulance (SJA)
Blue Star Medical (BSM)

4. How many emergency calls per month now receive a response from a private ambulance? This should be broken down year by year, for the last five years.

Please see the attached spreadsheet which shows this information broken down by month for each financial year. These figures represent a count of when a Private Ambulance Provider attended the incident, not necessarily the first or only resource attending.

To put these figures into context please see the table below which shows the total number of emergency responses made by SECamb for each of the financial years.

Financial Year	Total Emergency Responses
2010/2011	580,600
2011/2012	590,106
2012/2013	610,905
2013/2014	648,807
2014/2015	688,581

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