



40-42 Friars Walk  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 2XW

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
Email: [foi@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@secamb.nhs.uk)

30th July 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/07/17.

**How many times have ambulances and paramedics responding to 999 calls been delayed because access to the scene has been restricted?**

**Please detail this information in the following ways:**

**You requested the following information:**

- 1. In the last year 2014/15 (financial)**
- 2. In the last five years**
- 3. Across Sussex as a total; and also detailing by location (Brighton and Hove/Eastbourne/Worthing etc)**
- 4. For the incidents in Brighton and Hove please provide date, time, location(road name), nature of incident and in what way the access was restricted and why (car parked in the way/locked gate on public path). Please detail who was responsible for access to the location (council/private owner/another authority)**
- 5. In all incidents please detail how long the delay was**
- 6. In all incidents please specify how many patients and nature of injuries – critical/serious/or later died at scene or en route to hospital**
- 7. How many times had SECamb been contacted about concerns for restricted access in each case prior to the incidents?**

I regret to advise that we cannot provide the information as requested on the grounds of the exemption contained within s.12 of the FOIA. To retrieve the information would necessitate

manually looking at each record of our attendance at an incident to see if there were any problems with accessing the scene. As we attended approximately 245,750 incidents in 2014/2015 in the Sussex area, checking each one individually 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).

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful on this occasion.

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](mailto: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