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East Sussex
BN7 2XW

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7th October 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/10/04.

You requested the following information:

1. What happens when a patient dies in the care of the Trust and there are no details of the next of kin provided?

In the case of a sudden or unexpected death whilst in attendance on scene our Trust's routine procedure is to contact the Police who will attend and complete the process for a deceased patient.

Where there is an expected death such as with a terminal illness procedures would already be in place between the family, patient's doctor and/or care services.

2. Who tries to locate/trace the next of kin if the information is unknown? (name, department and contact details)

Not applicable

3. What are the steps taken to locate the next of kin of the deceased patient?

Not applicable

4. What happens when the trust is unable to locate the next of kin?

Not applicable

5. If the patient dies within the care of the trust and the next of kin cannot be traced, whose responsibility is it to provide a funeral? (name and contact details)

Not applicable

6. On how many instances has the trust provided a funeral for a patient (time frame January 2014 to present)?

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust does not conduct public health funerals.

7. Of these public health funerals please provide:

- a) Name of deceased
- b) Date of birth and date of death
- c) Last residential address
- d) Have the next of kin/family members been traced?
- e) What date have the details been referred to the QLTR, Bona Vacantia, Treasury Solicitor, Government Legal Department, National Ultimeus Haeres, Duchy or Farrer & Co?

Not applicable

8. Have there been cases where the trust has referred/or plan on referring details of the deceased patient to the Treasury Solicitor/Government Legal Department, Bona Vacantia, National Ultimeus Haeres, Crown Solicitor, Duchy Farrer & Co or QLTR?

Not applicable

9. Which other organisations have details (of the deceased with no known kin) been passed to and why?

Not applicable

10. Does the trust conduct an asset search and/or will search?

Not applicable

11. Which department deals with the deceaseds assets? (name and contact details)

Not applicable

12. Is the trust responsible for selling the assets in order to compensate for the funeral costs?

Not applicable

13. Does the Trust have an Empty Homes department? (name, contact details)

No

14. What is the role of the Empty Homes department?

Not applicable.

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