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17th December 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/11/33.

You requested the following information:

**Please could you confirm the names of the private ambulance providers that were added to the current framework in 2014 to provide A&E services and those added to the framework for PTS services?**

South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust has one framework for Private Ambulance Providers (PAPs) which commenced in June 2014. This covers A & E and PTS.

No PAP's or PTS were added to the current /existing framework.

**Could you confirm the date of the start of the framework for PAPs for both A & E and PTS services in 2014.**

June 2014

**Do all private ambulance providers have to be CQC registered at the time of being added to either framework?**

Yes.

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.

The Trust continues 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.

**Could you confirm which private ambulance providers remain on both frameworks at this time (18/11/15) and if any have been added since it started in 2014?**

British Red Cross  
Delta Medical Services  
Medical Service Ltd  
Sites Ambulance Service  
St Johns Ambulance  
Surrey Ambulance Service  
UK Specialist Ambulance Service

None have been added.

**Can you please outline the process each private provider had to go through in order to be accepted on to the framework. In particular:**

**1. Was the tender put out through the OJEU process?**

Yes

**2. Did all PAPs have to complete a PQQ and Invite to Tender document?**

Yes

**3. Was the process the same for each PAP- if not which providers did not have to follow this process?**

Yes

**Are there any circumstances in which a new PAP could be added to the Framework since its start in 2014?**

No

**Could PAPs on the PTS Framework be transferred onto the A & E framework?**

Yes, depending on the circumstances.

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