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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/15/11/38.

You requested the following information:

**Is there more than one framework that Private Ambulance companies operate for SECamb to carry out PTS and A & E work?**

No

**If so, please name all private companies that are on each framework and the date they were added to the framework.**

Not applicable

**Are all private companies that work for SECamb required to have CQC registration?**

Yes

**Must this registration be in place when they apply to work for SECamb or at the start of the framework?**

Yes

**What quality checks are carried out on each private provider to ensure they meet NHS standards?**

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.

SECamb do not set nor audit the NHS standards.

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.

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](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