



40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

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

7th January 2015

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/12/11.

You requested the following information:

I am currently studying at East Kent College, the Access to Healthcare Professionals course, and hoping to go onto university to study paramedic science.

As part of my independent research project I wondered if you could help by supplying me with some information.

My project is based upon assaults on paramedics within the ambulance service. I wondered if you could be kind enough to supply me with how many assaults on paramedics have been reported and in which areas are the assaults the highest and lowest. Also are the assaults on paramedics caused through the offending person being under the influence of drink or drugs? Or could it be down to another reason.

We do not record data by Paramedics only but include all clinical grades above and below. Additionally due to category changes on our system it is not possible to accurately break down all assaults (physical and non-physical) for each year, only physical assaults and so can only provide the overarching figures of aggression and assaults against staff and figures for physical assaults against staff.

Overall figures

01/12/2013-30/11/2014

436 Incidents reported concerning aggression/assaults against Ambulance staff;

178 Sussex
133 Kent
105 Surrey
20 Hampshire

On 203 occasions alcohol has been reported as an aggravating factor and/or on 76 occasions drugs have (or have also) been reported as an aggravating factor.

01/12/2014-30/11/2015

509 Incidents reported concerning aggression/assaults against Ambulance staff;

219 Sussex
135 Kent
127 Surrey
27 Hampshire
1 Out of SECAmb region

On 241 occasions alcohol has been reported as an aggravating factor and/or on 108 occasions drugs have (or have also) been reported as an aggravating factor.

Physical Assault figures

01/12/2013-30/11/2014

167 Incidents reported concerning physical assaults (and attempted assaults) against Ambulance staff;

58 Kent
55 Sussex
44 Surrey
10 Hampshire

On 88 occasions alcohol has been reported as an aggravating factor and/or on 37 occasions drugs have (or have also) been reported as an aggravating factor.

01/12/2014-30/11/2015

197 Incidents reported concerning physical assaults (and attempted assaults) against Ambulance staff;

82 Sussex
53 Kent
48 Surrey
14 Hampshire

On 123 occasions alcohol has been reported as an aggravating factor and/or on 56 occasions drugs have (or have also) been reported as an aggravating factor.

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