



40-42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

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25th January 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/15/12/20.

You requested the following information:

Would it be possible to request under the Freedom of Information Act the following details from the South East Coast Ambulance Service:

How many full time paramedics were employed by your Trust during the following financial years - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date?

Please see the table below which shows this information:

Headcount of full time paramedics	
31 Mar 11	350
31 Mar 12	398
31 Mar 13	452
31 Mar 14	461
31 Mar 15	560
31 Dec15	591

How many full time paramedics left the Trust during the following financial years - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date?

Please see the table below which shows this information:

Headcount of full time paramedic leavers	
Apr 10 - Mar 11	20
Apr 11 - Mar 12	13

Apr 12 - Mar 13	31
Apr 13 - Mar 14	48
Apr 14 - Mar 15	56
Apr 15 - Dec15	51

How many full time paramedics from overseas has your Trust hired during the following financial years - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date?

We started recruiting paramedics from overseas in 2014. 5 paramedics were recruited in 2014 and 15 were recruited in 2015.

How much has your Trust spent on agency staff during the following financial years - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date?

Please see the table below which shows the expenditure on agency staff for the last five financial years.

Financial year	Expenditure on agency staff
2010/2011	£1.8m
2011/2012	£1.8m
2012/2013	£1.7m
2013/2014	£2.7m
2014/2015	£4.7m

How much has your Trust spent on private ambulances that attend emergency calls - during the following financial years - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 to date?

We are continuing 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.

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.

Please see the table below which shows the expenditure on private ambulance providers for the last five financial years.

Financial year	Expenditure on Private Ambulance Providers
2010/2011	£1.7m

2011/2012	£5.1m
2012/2013	£6.8m
2013/2014	£10.1m
2014/2015	£12.3m

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