



40-42 Friars Walk  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 2XW

Tel: 0300 123 0999  
Email: [foi@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@secamb.nhs.uk)

15th March 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/02/23.

You requested the following information:

**I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:**

- 1) The total number of ambulance staff who took stress-related leave in 2014 and 2015. If possible, could you please break down by month.**
- 2) The total number of calendar days lost due to ambulance staff taking stress-related leave in 2014 and 2015. Again, could you please break down by month.**

Our reporting system uses 'Episodes' of sickness rather than staff numbers off sick. We are not able report on calendar days lost from our database, so we have quoted 'Full Time Equivalent (FTE) days lost'.

SECamb takes the welfare of its staff extremely seriously and recognises the stresses a career in the ambulance service places on its employees. We treat any concerns raised by staff very seriously and would encourage all staff to be open about how they feel. We have a number of mechanisms in place to assist with staff welfare including a contract with an external counselling provider through which the service guarantees to fund a number of sessions for staff who require them.

We also have a team of dedicated chaplains available to staff 24/7 and we have recently set up a trauma focussed peer support network which includes training a number of staff to support their colleagues following traumatic incidents. We work hard to support anyone who has had a prolonged period of time off because of stress to find a solution to the issues they are facing.

Please see the tables below for 2014 and 2015 which show the episodes of sickness due to anxiety, stress, depression and other psychiatric illnesses.

	<b>FTE days lost</b>	<b>No of Episodes</b>
Jan to Dec 14	5409	303

	<b>FTE days lost</b>	<b>No of Episodes</b>
Jan-14	749	42
Feb-14	518	28
Mar-14	473	22
Apr-14	536	24
May-14	469	22
Jun-14	333	20
Jul-14	354	18
Aug-14	378	21
Sep-14	428	22
Oct-14	370	28
Nov-14	395	27
Dec-14	406	29

	<b>FTE days lost</b>	<b>No of Episodes</b>
Jan to Dec 15	5087	327

	<b>FTE days lost</b>	<b>No of Episodes</b>
Jan-15	329	30
Feb-15	280	22
Mar-15	449	27
Apr-15	333	20
May-15	354	21
Jun-15	334	21
Jul-15	357	22
Aug-15	580	33
Sep-15	428	28
Oct-15	384	23
Nov-15	517	38
Dec-15	742	42

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