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29th February 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/02/15.

You requested the following information:

**I was hoping that you could help me with a request for some data. A colleague I work with (at the University of Nottingham) has managed to acquire some ambulance data for asthma via the East Midlands Ambulance Trust and I was hoping to be able to make the same request but with some additional breakdowns if at all possible.**

**I'm not sure if this comes under a freedom for information request or not but I was hoping on getting some aggregate data for asthma ambulance calls and the number of these calls that were conveyed to hospital. These would be defined by known asthma read codes. I'm not sure whether all trusts use the same coding but I would be happy to identify these read codes if you are able to provide me a list with relevant codes (e.g. all possible asthmatic or respiratory), I would be happy to match these up as best as possible. We would therefore be looking to get something that shows responses and conveyances to hospital.**

**I know that it has been possible to do previously with East Midlands and so I was wondering whether it would be possible to get this for the South East ambulance trust as well. In addition to this, it would be extremely useful if we could get any of this data for:**

- **Previous years**
- **Split by location (broad categories)**
- **Gender and/or 5yr age band split**

**I'd be really grateful if you could let me know whether you think this would be at all possible and if this should not be a freedom of information request, recommending someone who may be. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.**

Unfortunately we cannot capture a full data set for the requested information.

However, please see the attached spreadsheets which show the number of responses made to patients where the caller has mentioned 'asthma' or 'respiratory' during the triaging of the 999 call and these words have featured in the free text details of the call.

I would like to stress that these figures are based on the information provided by the caller which may prove different to what our crews find when they reach the patient, therefore the detail given by the caller may not always be accurate. These spreadsheets also show the number of incidents where the patient was transported to hospital.

As you can see the information has been broken down into counties however unfortunately we cannot provide gender or ages of the patients on the grounds of the exemption contained within s.12 of the FOIA. To retrieve the information would necessitate manually searching through each incident record to see if the gender or age has been recorded. This would exceed the appropriate limit of 18 hours as set down in the guidance on the application of the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees).

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

