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Tel: 0300 123 0999

Email: [foi@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@secamb.nhs.uk)

26th April 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/04/01.

You requested the following information:

**Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to know the following:**

**1) The number of paramedics currently working for your ambulance service.**

681 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (excluding bank)

**2) The number of current job vacancies for paramedics at your ambulance service.**

Currently we are working to meet our annual active target of 248 paramedic roles, which forms part of an ongoing recruitment program.

**3) The number of job vacancies for paramedics that have gone unfilled for more than 12 months.**

Paramedic recruitment is ongoing and we are unable to report whether individual vacancies have gone unfilled.

**4) The number of job vacancies for paramedics that have gone unfilled for more than 24 months.**

Paramedic recruitment is ongoing and we are unable to report whether individual vacancies have gone unfilled.

**5) The number of paramedics who have resigned or left the service in the last 12 months.**

Paramedic leavers 1st April 15 to 31st March 2016 – 71 (excluding retirements and dismissals)

**6) The number of paramedics who have been hired by the service in the last 12 months.**

Paramedic new starters 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31st March 2016 – 124

**7) The total cost of using private ambulances or agency staff per year for the last three financial years.**

Please see the table below which shows this information:

Financial year	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Private Ambulance Services £000	8,296	13,658	14,405
Private Locum Workers £000	1,746	2,666	4,666

We are unable to provide figures for 2015/2016 as these have not yet been audited.

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