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18th May 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/04/22.

You requested the following information:

1) Please can you provide a copy of the course or training syllabus for your emergency care support worker role?

Please see the attached current ECSW programme. I am also attaching the Scope of Practice Policy with the pages relevant to ECSW training.

2) Please provide details of modules undertaken; key areas covered; assessments and pass marks; and the governing body that accredit the course.

There is no awarding body for the ECSW course. It is an internal course and we use the 'Ambulance Care Essentials' manual, JRCALC and local policies/procedures as course reference material. Please see the timetable attached providing details of areas covered in the ECSW course.

3) What qualifications do you accept for staff to work at ECSW level or equivalent? For example do you allow FPOS qualifications?

For any applicants to SECamb our entry requirements are GCSEs Grade C or above (or equivalent) in Maths and English or a strong background in care , ideally with a relevant vocational qualification. All applicants are required to complete the whole four week ECSW course.

4) Do you accept ECSW's from other trusts or organisations that did not receive SECAMB's course to work for you as ECSW's? If so please describe the process you use to ensure that the training they have had is satisfactory?

Staff joining the Trust as an ECSW would undertake the SECAMB four week ECSW course unless they can demonstrate their clinical competence reaches the same level as a SECAMB ECSW to operate at this level within the SECAMB ECSW Scope of Practice.

5) Where gaps in training are identified please describe the process used to bring individuals training in line with SECAMB requirements.

As described in the response to Question 4 above, clinicians joining SECAMB would need to demonstrate clinical competence at the clinical level they are joining the Trust in to be able to operate in the given Scope of Practice. An individual Training Needs Analysis can be undertaken to identify any skills gaps.

6) Is it a requirement for all ECSW's, technicians and paramedics that work for SECAMB (or the private providers that SECAMB use) to hold IHCD BTEC Level 3 blue light driving qualifications or the equivalent? Please specify which qualifications would be considered equivalent.

Yes. The awards we accept are IHCD D1D2 and the level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Driving and more recently we have now moved onto the new Level 3 certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving by Future qual which is a 4 week programme.

Some of our drivers still hold historic qualifications which would be judged as equivalent, meeting the same learning outcomes. Please see the attached list. This list is not exhaustive and all competencies are carefully mapped across to the new standard. Any new candidates not from the Trust with the appropriate qualifications would receive a driving assessment and further training where required.

All applications together with the driving qualifications held would be assessed on an individual basis to ensure correct training has been received.

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