



40/42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

5th August 2016

foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/07/28.

You requested the following information:

- **For each financial year since 2011/12 up to the present, please tell me how many ambulances were called out where new psychoactive substances (NPS) were recorded as a contributory factor.**
- **If possible, please provide a 12 month breakdown for the year 2015-16.**
- **If possible, please provide the same data for the current financial year to date - again broken down month by month.**

Please see the letter below which was sent very recently in connection with this subject.

For the financial years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15 2015-16 and 2016-17 to date:

1. How many emergency calls have you received from people suspected to have taken legal highs or NPS (new psychoactive substances)?

Please see the tables below which show information based on searching under the freetext of 'legal high' and 'spice'. A search was also conducted under the freetext of 'NPS' and 'New Psychoactive substances' but no details are held under these. I would like to stress that these figures are based on the information provided by the caller during triage of the 999 call 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. This figure will include electronically transferred calls from NHS 111.

Legal High

	Calls received	Emergency	Transports to
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		responses made	hospital
2011/2012	9	9	9
2012/2013	48	39	33
2013/2014	140	115	68
2014/2015	269	231	146
2015/2016	403	320	191
2016/2017 (to 30/6/16)	78	54	25

Spice

	Calls received	Emergency responses made	Transports to hospital
2011/2012	1	1	1
2012/2013	0	0	0
2013/2014	13	12	10
2014/2015	28	21	13
2015/2016	113	79	45
2016/2017(to 30/6/16)	45	28	11

2. Of those in question 1 - how many emergency responses were there? (number of times an ambulance was despatched)

Please see the tables above titled 'legal high' and 'spice' which show the number of responses made.

3. How many of those emergency responses resulted in a person being conveyed to hospital?

Please see the tables above titled 'legal high' and 'spice' which show the number of incidents where the patient was transferred to hospital.

4. Which specific legal high or NPS has been recorded the most in the incidents above in question 1?

We do not hold this information.

I hope you find this information helpful. However if you wish to receive additional information, please let me know.

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