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Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN7 2XW

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

7<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/08/23.

You requested the following information:

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

- 1. How many physical assaults towards paramedics and other medical staff have been recorded?**
- 2. How many successful prosecutions have there been for physical assaults towards paramedics and other medical staff?**

Our Trust views assaults against its staff very seriously. Our Local Security Management Specialist actively promotes awareness of our zero-tolerance stance with regard to assaults on staff and encourages staff to report incidents.

The Trust also ensures that our operational staff are provided with conflict resolution training to minimise the risks of assaults.

The Trust externally reports on an annual basis to NHS Protect statistics of the number of physical assaults, court/criminal and civil/custody and administrative sanctions. This data is audited and published by NHS Protect covering all Trusts nationally. These reports can be found via <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/3645.aspx>.

Whilst the data for 2015-16 is not yet available this is anticipated to be published by NHS Protect in early November and we expect to see a rise in assaults and positively, a significant rise in reported sanctions for our Trust.

Our current Local Security Management Specialist, who was appointed in 2015, has prioritised this area of work and submitted a total of 44 sanctions (inclusive of both civil and prosecution sanctions) for the financial year 2015-16 for the 185 incident reports of physical assault.

We anticipate a small increase in the number of assaults and sanctions, following audit of our data by NHS Protect. This is as a result of the way in which the Trust collects the data, by the number of incidents (which may involve multiple victims); whereas NHS Protect collects data by the number of victims.

**3. How many addresses have been black listed or have a marker on them - for instances where your Trust is concerned about the safety of ambulance crews and they can only enter the premises with police back up / protection?**

**For the information in question 3, I would like a breakdown of the locations of these addresses within the confines of cost limit for the above years. Should my request for five full years and the year to date take this over the cost limit for requests, please discard information from the least recent years until the cost limit is no longer breached.**

**As a preference, they would be broken down for year and by postcode district (eg. NG5 1).**

We are mindful of our duty to our staff and do not want to expose them to any unnecessary hazards which includes incidents where they may be subjected to potential violence. In making this assessment however, we do not deem it appropriate to “flag” entire areas, but instead will history mark individual addresses where and when it is appropriate.

The Trust maintains a log of addresses where the patient/s (or other residents at the address) concerned are considered to represent an actual or potential danger to our staff.

A red marker relates to the highest risk category and is defined as those addresses where information available makes it clear that staff have been physically assaulted or threatened with violence.

An amber marker relates to those addresses where information available makes it clear that there is a potential risk to crews, or of abusive, aggressive/ inappropriate behaviour.

Markers are periodically reviewed to ensure they still apply. Red markers are reviewed after six months and if no further incidents the marker is downgraded to amber. Amber markers are reviewed after six months and if no further incidents the markers are removed.

When The Trust responds to a marked address, the Emergency Operations Centre will alert the attending crew to the nature of the marker to ensure they are aware of the potential risk; in some cases this will include instructions to await the arrival of the police prior to approaching the property in question.

Requests for history markers are considered on a monthly basis at a working group attended by a wide representation; however Emergency Operations Centre Managers can determine a temporary marker if there is an urgent request for one.

There are currently 33 addresses with red markers and 49 addresses with amber markers. These figures relate to the whole of the area SECamb covers.

Please see the following list of areas which currently have red markers. We can only provide the areas as this is how this information is recorded within the Trust.

Seaford  
Worthing x 4  
Hailsham  
East Wittering  
Rottingdean  
Rye  
Lancing  
Brighton  
Guildford  
Long Ditton  
Crawley  
Walton  
Farnborough  
Maidstone  
Tunbridge Wells  
Ramsgate  
Faversham x 2  
Hythe  
Rainham  
Dartford  
Westgate on Sea  
Dover  
Canterbury  
Chatham x 2  
Sutton at Hone  
Longfield  
Whitstable  
St Marys Bay

Please see the following list of areas which currently have amber markers. We can only provide the areas as this is how this information is recorded within the Trust.

Rustington  
Rye  
St Leonards x 3  
Brighton x 3  
Hastings  
Bexhill x 3  
Eastbourne  
Uckfield  
East Ashling  
Elstead  
Farnham  
Crawley

Chertsey  
Ashridge  
West Molesey  
Farnborough x 2  
Shipley Bridge  
Wrecclesham  
Three Bridges  
Leatherhead  
Dartford x 3  
Gillingham x 2  
Maidstone  
Gravesend x 2  
Sheerness  
Tunbridge Wells x 2  
Margate x 3  
Chatham x 2  
Herne Bay  
Horton Kirby  
Northfleet  
Rochester x 2  
Folkestone

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