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Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

foi@secamb.nhs.uk

2nd September 2016

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/16/08/13.

You requested the following information:

For each of the questions, please can you provide answers for each of the financial years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16:

1. PARACETAMOL

Which suppliers did you buy paracetamol from?

AAH Wholesalers

How many packets of paracetamol did you buy from each supplier? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

How many packets of paracetamol did you buy in total? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

Please see the table below which shows the number of paracetamol tablets procured in each financial year. We only hold information for the dates in the table. We do not hold this information for the financial year 2013/2014.

Financial Year	Number of tablets procured (paracetamol)
2014/2015 (Nov to March Inclusive)	10,000
2015/2016	43,000
2016/2017 (to 31/8/16)	20,500

How much did you pay each supplier for paracetamol?

How much did you spend on paracetamol in total?

I have to advise that I am unable to provide any further information on the basis of the exemption contained within s43 (2) of the FOI Act (Commercial Interests). The Trust accepts that there is a public interest in how public money is spent; however there is also a need to withhold information that would prejudice the commercial interest of the Trust and/ or third parties. In assessing the public interest, the Trust takes the view that this would be the case in this instance. The Trust considers that this information, in conjunction with other information that might already or will be in the public domain, could lead to the commercial interests of the Trust together with the companies we use being adversely affected.

How many prescriptions in total did you make for paracetamol?

How many of these prescriptions were free for the patient?

How much money were you paid by patients for paracetamol?

SECamb (South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust) does not deploy any front line operational staff who have the legal authority to prescribe. The supply of these medicines was free for the patient.

2. IBUPROFEN

Which suppliers did you buy ibuprofen from?

AAH Wholesalers

How many packets of ibuprofen did you buy from each supplier? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

How many packets of ibuprofen did you buy in total? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

Please see the table below which shows the number of ibuprofen tablets procured in each financial year. We only hold information for the dates in the table. We do not hold this information for the financial year 2013/2014.

Financial Year	Number of tablets procured (ibuprofen)
2014/2015 (Nov to March Inclusive)	5,082
2015/2016	23,352
2016/2017 (to 31/8/16)	9,240

How much did you pay each supplier for ibuprofen?

How much did you spend on ibuprofen in total?

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How many prescriptions in total did you make for ibuprofen?

How many of these prescriptions were free for the patient?

How much money were you paid by patients for ibuprofen?

SECamb does not deploy any front line operational staff who have the legal authority to prescribe. The supply of these medicines was free for the patient.

3. ASPIRIN

Which suppliers did you buy aspirin from?

AAH Wholesalers

How many packets of aspirin did you buy from each supplier? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

How many packets of aspirin did you buy in total? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

Please see the table below which shows the number of aspirin tablets (300mg) procured in each financial year. We only hold information for the dates in the table. We do not hold this information for the financial year 2013/2014.

Financial Year	Number of tablets procured (aspirin 300mg)
2014/2015 (Nov to March Inclusive)	21,184
2015/2016	4,640
2016/2017 (to 31/8/16)	10,800

How much did you pay each supplier for aspirin?

How much did you spend on aspirin in total?

I have to advise that I am unable to provide any further information on the basis of the exemption contained within s43 (2) of the FOI Act (Commercial Interests). The Trust accepts that there is a public interest in how public money is spent; however there is also a need to withhold information that would prejudice the commercial interest of the Trust and/ or third parties. In assessing the public interest, the Trust takes the view that this would be the case in this instance. The Trust considers that this information, in conjunction with other information that might already or will be in the public domain, could lead to the commercial interests of the Trust together with the companies we use being adversely affected.

How many prescriptions in total did you make for aspirin?
How many of these prescriptions were free for the patient?
How much money were you paid by patients for aspirin?

SECamb does not deploy any front line operational staff who have the legal authority to prescribe. The supply of these medicines was free for the patient.

4. CODEINE PHOSPHATE

Which suppliers did you buy codeine phosphate from?

AAH Wholesalers

How many packets of codeine phosphate did you buy from each supplier? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.
How many packets of codeine phosphate did you buy in total? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.

We only have figures for the current financial year as we have only recently started providing codeine phosphate.

Please see the table below which shows the number of codeine phosphate tablets procured in the financial year 2016/2017.

Financial Year	Number of tablets procured (codeine phosphate)
2016/2017	45,220

How much did you pay each supplier for codeine phosphate?
How much did you spend on codeine phosphate in total?

I have to advise that I am unable to provide any further information on the basis of the exemption contained within s43 (2) of the FOI Act (Commercial Interests). The Trust accepts that there is a public interest in how public money is spent; however there is also a need to withhold information that would prejudice the commercial interest of the Trust and/ or third parties. In assessing the public interest, the Trust takes the view that this would be the case in this instance. The Trust considers that this information, in conjunction with other information that might already or will be in the public domain, could lead to the commercial interests of the Trust together with the companies we use being adversely affected.

How many prescriptions in total did you make for codeine phosphate?

How many of these prescriptions were free for the patient?

How much money were you paid by patients for codeine phosphate?

SECamb does not deploy any front line operational staff who have the legal authority to prescribe. The supply of these medicines was free for the patient.

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