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3rd February 2017

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/17/01/08.

You requested the following information:

Can you please state how much your Trust spent on private ambulances in 2016?

We are continuing to look at ways in which we can reduce our reliance on the use of private ambulance services and always prioritise using our own staff whenever possible. However, along with all ambulance services nationally, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SECamb) does use private ambulance providers when faced with high levels of demand, when experiencing high call volume or during periods of bad weather.

Please see the table below which shows the expenditure on private ambulance providers for the calendar years of 2012 up to 2016. These figures include expenditure on use of private ambulance providers for accident and emergency and Patient Transport Services.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Value GBP'000s	5,809	12,786	14,529	13,171	11,667

If you do not have complete figures for 2016 yet, please indicate the latest to date.

Please see figures for the complete year above.

Can you also provide the amount spent on private ambulances in 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012?

Please see the table above.

Please also state the name of the private ambulance company which has received the most money from the Trust. How much was it?

I have to advise that I am unable to provide this 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.

I hope you find this information useful.

However, if for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Manager via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust