



40/42 Friars Walk
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2XW

foi@secamb.nhs.uk

28th March 2017

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/17/01/46.

You requested the following information:

1) Does your AS recruit individual members of staff, double-crewed ambulances or both when purchasing services from the private sector?

We don't recruit staff but we do use Double Crewed Ambulances from Private Ambulance Providers.

2) How much did your Trust spend in the financial year 2015/16 on privately contracted emergency staff (individuals or double-crewed ambulances)?

The total expenditure on Private Ambulance Providers for A & E for 2015/2016 was £10,603,000.

3) Do you contract staff (whether individuals or double-crewed ambulances) to undertake emergency operational work?

Yes.

4) How do you verify that the statutory and mandatory training of individual private ambulance clinical staff that you contract to undertake emergency (999) operational work, is comparable to that provided to your Trust's employed clinical staff?

The requirements are stipulated in the Terms of the contract and verified through the PIN Application process.

5) How does the statutory and mandatory training of privately contracted staff (individuals or double crewed ambulance) that you contract to undertake emergency (999) operational

work, compare with your employed staff, in terms of: (a) comparison of compliance rates with your Trusts performance Targets (number of staff that have completed statutory and mandatory training) according to your agreed training plan, and (b) subjects undertaken as defined by your Trusts agreed training plan for employed staff?

We do not undertake a comparison against the Trust however in order for each Private Ambulance Provider to be compliant they must ensure their staff complete and perform to Trust standards as per the contract.

6) How do completions rates of PRFs (or electronic patient records) by privately contracted (individuals or double crewed ambulances) compare with rates by Trust employed clinicians?

The expectation of both Private Ambulance Provider clinicians and Trust clinicians is standard across the board. Every job attended must have a PCR (PRF) completed in order to be compliant.

7) How does compliance of PRF (or electronic patient records) by privately contracted (individuals or double crewed ambulances) compare with compliance by Trust employed clinicians in terms of the quality standards for completion which your Trust sets and according to your Trusts policies and procedures?

The minimum data set of PCR (PRF) completion is a standard requirement regardless of whether the clinicians are Private Provider staff or Trust staff. The quality standards for the completion of each PCR (PRF) is set nationally and each Private Provider must audit their own staff's PCRs in order to meet their CQC Registration requirements.

8) Does your Trust mandate that private double-crewed ambulances contracted by your Trust for emergency work have the same standard and type of clinical equipment as your own emergency ambulances and that this meets your own maintenance standards? If yes, to what degree are our privately contracted emergency vehicles compliant with your Trusts vehicle equipment standards?

They are of equal standard.

I hope you find this information useful.

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

