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20th March 2017

Email:

Dear

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/17/02/37.

You requested the following information:

I am currently gathering market information and would therefore kindly request you to assist by providing answers to the following questions under the FOI;

1. How many vehicles does the Trust have in its fleet as of 31st March 2016?

As of 31st March 2016, South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust had 978 vehicles in its fleet. This is made up of Double Crewed Ambulances (DCAs), Single Response Vehicles (SRVs), Patient Transport Services (PTS), Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) and other non-emergency grey fleet vehicles.

a. Of the entire fleet, what is the total for DCA Ambulance's to RRV's you currently have operational within your fleet?

We currently have 299 DCAs and 222 SRVs.

b. Does the Trust see the ratio between DCA Ambulances and RRV's changing in the next 3 years and if so, what is the proposed new ratio likely to be?

There have been discussions around increasing the DCA fleet and decreasing SRV's but currently we have no confirmed figures of how this ratio will look that we can report on.

c. What spare reserve of DCA Ambulances do you currently have within your fleet to cover "Vehicles of Road" at any one time?

There is a daily average Trust spare DCA capacity of around 30% to allow for pre-planned maintenance and vehicle defects resulting in Vehicles Off Road.

2. What is the current split of DCA Ambulances i.e. Van or Box conversion?

All of our current Trust DCA's are a chassis cab box body design.

a. Does the fleet see this changing in the next 3 years and if so, what is the proposed new ratio?

No, not in the immediate future.

3. Does your fleet currently lease DCA Ambulances or purchase from Capital?

Predominantly we outright purchase our vehicles with Capital funds but again this is a future topic of discussion on how we will purchase our vehicles moving forward.

a. What is your DCA Ambulance vehicle replacement policy in terms of years i.e. 5, 7, 10?

Our current replacement policy for DCA's is 7 years however due to operational demand some vehicles will be extended beyond this time as long as they are still fit for purpose.

4. What was the total expenditure of tail-lift/ramp service and repair costs (including labour and materials) during 2015/16?

£251,237.55

a. What is the annual cost across your DCA Ambulance fleet for LOLER and PUWER compliancy for Tail-lifts/Ramps?

£62,790

b. What was the vehicle downtime in hours whilst these tail-lift/ramp service and repairs took place?

3,588 hours

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