



South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS
Foundation Trust
Nexus House
Gatwick Road
Crawley
RH10 9BG

Date 16th November 2017

Email:

Email:foi@secamb.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/17/07/05.

You requested the following information, please also see our response below:

On how many occasions were emergency ambulances sent out to patients with a primary diagnosis of a psychiatric condition in each financial year since 2012/13.

How long (in hours) did emergency ambulances spend attending patients with a primary diagnosis of a psychiatric condition and (b) what this represents as a proportion of emergency ambulances' caseload in each financial year since 2012/13.

Please see table below:

Financial Year	Mental Health calls*	Proportion of overall response activity	Time Spent (Hours)
2012 - 2013	16269	2.7%	25133
2013 - 2014	16647	2.6%	25717
2014 - 2015	18118	2.6%	27989
2015 - 2016	21198	3.0%	32748
2016 - 2017	18378	2.5%	28391
2017 - 2018**	8973	2.4%	13862

*This data consists of the following problem natures; Hanged (attempted), Mental Health, Mental Health Issues, Police S.136, Section 136, Self-Harm, Suicide.

Please note that the problem nature is determined by the call taker, and not a diagnosis, what was found when a crew arrived on scene or what the patient was treated for if conveyed to hospital.

** This data is up to and including 8th October 2017

(a) How much time did emergency ambulances spend transporting mental health patients outside of the area the trust operates in and (b) what was the subsequent financial cost of the downtime of these journeys in each financial year since 2012/13.

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information.

I hope you find this information of some assistance.

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