



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

Date 24<sup>th</sup> 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/17/08/21.

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

**1. Please advise, to the trust's knowledge, of the total number of inquests involving trust patients in the last five financial years (1 April 2012 to 31 March 2017). Please advise for the following periods:**

**1 July 2013 to 31 March 2014 - 299**  
**Financial year 2014/15 - 397**  
**Financial year 2015/16 - 502**  
**Financial year 2016/17 - 461**

Please note the number above is for all cases relating to requests for health records – this includes solicitors, coroners and police requests. To determine how many of these are specifically for inquests would mean going through each individual record and would exceed 18 hours and would therefore fall under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

**2. How many coroners' Section 28 reports on action to prevent future deaths has the trust received?**

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information

**Please disclose copies of the Section 28 reports received by the trust.**

All the reports are available via the following link and then selecting 'view all reports to prevent future deaths' :

<https://www.judiciary.gov.uk/related-offices-and-bodies/office-chief-coroner/pfd-reports/>

**3. Please advise to how many of these Section 28 reports has the trust responded?**

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information

**4. Has the trust asked the coroner not to publish any of its responses (or any part of its responses) to Section 28 reports? If so, on how many occasions?**

**Please disclose copies of any correspondence in which the trust has asked for its responses not to be published.**

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information

**5. Please disclose copies of the trust's responses to coroners' Section 28 reports.**

The Chief Coroner publishes all the Section 28 reports and only some of the responses. If the Coroner has not published them, we would not release them as they contain patient identifiable data and would therefore be exempt under Section 40 (2) – Data Protection

**6. Please advise if the trust has since audited the implementation of its action plans in response to Section 28 reports.**

Unfortunately, we do not hold his information

I hope you find this information of some assistance. As you will see, there is some information that we have not historically held and this is in part due to us not having a specific resource. Earlier in 2017, as part of the Trust's improvement plan, we established a dedicated legal services team. The Head of Legal Services started in August and we do now have robust systems in place to ensure such information is saved.

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](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

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