



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

Date 13th 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/17/08/44.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request whether your ambulance service makes use of fire services within its region to answer some of its medical 999 calls?

Yes, we do use the fire service to assist on medical 999 calls

If so how many ambulance 999 calls saw support provided at the scene by firefighters? Please provide the total number of such calls for each of the last five years.

We have requested the fire service 8119 times since the scheme started on 28th September 2015.

However, we cannot differentiate between how many times they attended and how many times they were stood down as this would require looking at each individual incident and would exceed 18 hours and therefore be exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004.

Please state how many fatalities resulted from such calls in each year.

To determine how many of these calls resulted in fatalities 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

The reason for using the fire service is to maximise the chances of survival by implementing early CPR and having an AED applied to the patient in the event that they are in VF and can be defibrillated.

For comparison, please provide the overall total number of medical 999 calls directed to the ambulance service for each of the five years.

Please see table below which shows the total number of calls (this will also include call backs to and from the service)

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Number of Calls	847558	910875	927590	1021054	818446

Please note that the data for 2017 is up to and including the 30th September

Please outline the type of ambulance 999 calls which could see firefighters attend? For example, cardiac arrests?

Firefighters are requested on the following types of calls;

- Red 1 – except maternity birth imminent
- Red 2 - Chest Pain, Difficulty in Breathing, Fitting and Unconscious

Do firefighters in the region attend ambulance calls in fire engines or other vehicles fitted out with medical equipment?

Firefighters attend in a range of vehicles including Fire Appliances, Marked and unmarked vehicles and 4x4 vehicles.

All vehicles carry AED, Oxygen and basic responder equipment including observation kit (e.g. blood pressure)

Whether or not they currently attend such ambulance call-outs, have firefighters within the region been given additional medical training to deal with ambulance call-outs now or in the future?

Yes, we have an established and Trust approved course called Immediate Emergency Care Responder course (IECR) which is a 4 or 5 day course written and overseen by SECamb

Please note that we respond alongside all incidents to which we request the support of fire service co-responders

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