



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

Date 25th October 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/17/09/14.

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

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and in respect of the policy your organisation has in relation to replacement of vehicle tyres.

This might be on fleets directly managed or fleets managed on behalf of the organisation by an external provider or relate to the guidance or instruction given to employees or contractors in the event of a personal vehicle being used for a work purpose.

Specifically, I am interested to learn:

What is the number of vehicles is owned by your organisation (vehicle fleets both directly managed by the organisation or by an external organisation)?

DCA – 299

SRV- 231

HART- 32

Other – 132

Please note that the 'other' is made up of workshop vehicles, IT vehicles, managers cars and other non-operational vehicles.

What are the types of vehicle owned by your organisation (e.g. car, small delivery van, larger delivery vehicle, 4x4, special purpose vehicle etc.)?

All our DCAs are chassis cab boxed body vehicles, our SRVs are a mix of cars, 4x4s and LCVs. The HART vehicles are a mix of cars, 4x4s LCVs and larger commercial vehicles. Our other vehicles are a mix of workshop 4x4s, vans and manager's cars.

Is there a minimum tread depth at which tyres must be replaced? This might be at a tread depth greater than the 1.6mm legal minimum or it might be that drivers are reminded of the legal minimum.

As a Trust we get all our workshops to replace tyres on response capable vehicles at 3mm when vehicles are in for servicing / defects. It is overall the driver's responsibility to ensure that tyres are legal and above the required legal limit of 1.6mm and checked at the start of each shift.

If an instruction is not in place, is there advice or guidance given and if so, what is that guidance?

The guidance is that when tyres are checked by the driver at the start of shift they should be above the legal limit of 1.6mm.

If the organisation has vehicles that provide an emergency response and/or have to contend with specific conditions, e.g. sometimes operate off-road, as well as vehicles involved in routine journeys, please provide details if there a variance between the instruction and/or advice given.

There is no variance.

If some or all of the vehicles used for a work purpose are managed by an external provider, please detail whether the policy on tyre replacement is that of your organisation or something in place from that provider.

All tyre changing instructions are given from the Trust for Trust owned vehicles. For cars leased by the Trust authority has to be obtained from the lease company before new tyres can be fitted.

Please provide details of any related instructions and/or guidance related to tyres - for example (though not exhaustive) how regularly tyre checks (tread, wear, inflation, damage) should happen? whether winter tyres and summer tyres are used during the appropriate seasons? and so on.

Tyre checks should be carried out daily by the driver at the start of each shift.

As a Trust we have taken the decision to fit cross climate tyres that are suitable for both summer and winter conditions, this reduces the need to keep changing tyres unnecessarily and ensures our vehicles are always fitted with the best tyres for all weather conditions.

Please provide details if tyres used on vehicles for a work purpose have to be from an identified list of manufacturers or might be recommended to be from an identified list of manufacturers or whether there is more general guidance, e.g. 'only premium tyres should be fitted' or 'budget tyres are not advised'.

Please provide this information covering vehicles that might be directly managed or managed by an external provider or in the circumstance of a private vehicle being used for a work purpose - identifying any variance on the requirement or advice in every instance.

All operational vehicles are fitted with Michelin Tyres

All non-operational and grey fleet vehicles have their tyres changed like for like.

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