



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

Date 29th January 2018

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/18/01/02.

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

1) How many choking incidents did your Ambulance Trust attend for the year 2016 and also 2017?

Please see table below for incidents where problem nature and/ or free text indicated choking:

Year	Responses
2016	1242
2017	1338

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.

2) How many of these incidents were attended where the casualty was no longer breathing?

To extract this information would mean going through each individual record and exceed 18hours and would therefore fall under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

3) How many of these casualties had expired when reached by your Ambulance Trust

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4) How many of these casualties had expired once they arrived at hospital or in hospital?

We are an ambulance service and treat patients on scene and/or transport them to hospital. Therefore, we are unable to respond to this question.

5) How long is your standard observation period in hospital of a victim of choking with no further complications?

We are an ambulance service and treat patients on scene and/or transport them to hospital. Therefore, we are unable to respond to this question.

6) How many patients were released once your standard observation period had elapsed?

We are an ambulance service and treat patients on scene and/or transport them to hospital. Therefore, we are unable to respond to this question.

7) How many patients had to be admitted into hospital for longer than your standard observation period?

2 days to one week?

one week to one month?

one month to six months?

six months to one year?

over one year?

We are an ambulance service and treat patients on scene and/or transport them to hospital. Therefore, we are unable to respond to this question.

8) How many patients received injury from the lifesaving procedures performed on them?

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information

9) What were these injuries? And how many of each injury?

Unfortunately, we do not hold this information

10) What are the costs for each ambulance call out?

The cost for each ambulance call out is £247

11) What is the average cost for a casualty to be admitted to A&E?

We are an ambulance service and treat patients on scene and/or transport them to hospital. Therefore, we are unable to respond to this question.

12) What is the average cost of single 24 hour hospital stay?

We are an ambulance service and treat patients on scene and/or transport them to hospital. Therefore, we are unable to respond to this question.

13) What equipment do your paramedics carry to dislodge an obstruction of the airway when attending a choking incident?

Laryngoscope

Magills forceps

Suction

14) What are the costs of cleaning or replacing this equipment once used?

The equipment is single use only so they are not cleaned after use. The cost to purchase each piece of equipment is as follows:

- Laryngoscope handle £4.15
- Laryngoscope blade £3.42
- Child magills £2.78
- Adult magills £2.27

15) What standards does your suction equipment for full and partial blockages have to meet to be equipped in your Ambulance Trust?

All Trust equipment is CE marked and procured against national specification

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