



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

Date 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Email: [foi@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@secamb.nhs.uk)

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/18/08/19.

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

**Can you tell me how many times needle thoracentesis (chest decompression) has been performed by your staff in the following years; 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?**

Searching for cases where a needle thoracentesis took place has returned over 27,000 results. All PCR's are scanned, however only certain fields are validated and so many of these 27,000 cases are in fact 'false positives'.

To validate these records to determine an accurate response would exceed 18hours and therefore be exempt under Section 12- FOI (Appropriate limit and fees) Regulations 2004

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with our response, kindly in the first instance contact Caroline Smart, Information Governance Lead 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