



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

Date 22nd November 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/18/09/21.

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

1. Please provide figures for the number of 999 call outs where a care assistant or two or more care assistants were dispatched – without either an ambulance technician or paramedic.

Please provide figures for the following financial years: a) 2017/18 b) 2016/17

Please see table below showing totals for incidents with skill grades lower than a technician:

Financial Year	Total Incidents	Red 1 & Cat 1 Incidents	Red 2 & Cat 2 Incidents
2016/17	14565	143	5668
2017/18	26579	409	10950

Please see table below which shows all incidents responded to:

Financial Year	Total Incidents
2016/17	730796
2017/18	704243

2. For question 1, please state how many of these calls were Type 1 and Type 2 for 2017/18 and 2016/17?

Please see table above. On 22nd November 2017 SECamb adopted the Ambulance Response Programme. This implements new ambulance standards and introduced a number of new call categories. For more information on ARP please visit the following website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/urgent-emergency-care/arp/>

a) The number of Type 1 calls in 2017/18 where a care assistant(s) was dispatched, without an ambulance technician or paramedic

Please see table below

b) The number of Type 2 calls in 2017/18 where a care assistant(s) was dispatched, without an ambulance technician or paramedic

Please see table below

c) The number of Type 1 calls in 2016/17 where a care assistant (s) was dispatched, without an ambulance technician or paramedic

Please see table below

d) The number of Type 2 calls in 2016/17 where a care assistant (s) was dispatched, without an ambulance technician or paramedic

Please see table below:

Financial Year	Category 1 Incidents	Category 2 Incidents
2016/17	143	5668
2017/18	409	10950

All grades of clinicians are able to respond to calls categorised as life threatening. Upon arrival, it may not be as given and within the skill set of the arriving clinician, not requiring additional resourcing. All resources can request additional paramedic back up if required.

3. Please provide details for the number of weeks of training undertaken by care assistants before they are allowed to attend 999 callouts on their own?

We do not have care assistants. Each Emergency Care Support Worker (ECSW) currently attends a 4 week clinical course, followed by an emergency driving course (4 weeks), they then attend a local induction at the operating unit they have been assigned to. This includes shadowing/third manning and a period of time with an established mentor. ECSWs role is to assist the Paramedic or Technician/Associate Practitioner and are typically crewed up with an experienced member of clinical staff

4. If possible, please state the current vacancy rate amongst paramedics within your ambulance trust. Please provide this figure as a percentage.

24.8% as of 31st August 2018

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 Lead via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

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