



Trust Headquarters
Nexus House
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Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 9BG

Date 23rd December 2019

Email:

Dear,

Tel: 0300 123 0999
www.secamb.nhs.uk

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI/19/12/09.

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

Does the funding for SORT training come from NARU? If not, who funds the training?

The funding comes from the Department of Health (DoH) and is managed via NARU on behalf of DoH. In terms of funding we call this pass-through money. This money is for all aspects of the training and the equipment, but not the clinical staff

Who funds the running of the SORT vehicle? For example, SECAMB or NARU or DoH

The SORT vehicles are a SECamb initiative and is funded within Trust, as we felt it is an effective model to deploy this type of clinical / operational assets. These vehicles are above the requirement set by the DoH contract, and very few Trusts have adopted this proactive model.

What is the agreement between SECAMB and NARU (or the funding provider) as to what the SORT vehicle is tasked too?

The funding that we receive is for the training and equipping of this capability and to ensure that we have trained and equipped staff available should an incident of this type occur. There is no contractual agreement attached to the funding that specifies tasking or vehicles. Indeed, the clinical staff which provide this capability come from operations therefore, would be undertaking their normal operational duties, if not required to attend a SORT type of incident.

Is the funding provider aware that the SORT vehicle gets tasked to all calls?

As indicated above, these vehicles are above our contractual requirements, therefore, is not something that the DoH would be aware of.

Has there been any risk assessment undertaken for when the SORT vehicle gets sent to a cat 3 or cat 4 call and is delayed on scene and a SORT appropriate call comes in?

We have not undertaken a risk assessment regarding this specific issue, however, we do have risk assessments regarding the capabilities associated within the SORT capability. Both national and local risk assessments.

Are the HART team used to attend all categories of calls when in SMP 3 or SMP 4?

We have a specific deployment procedure for HART, which sets out the criteria for the deployment of HART and aligns to our contractual standards. HART are able to attend all category of calls, regardless to what level of SMP we are in. The decision to deploy would be based on whether HART are able to add value to the incident and make a contribution to the patient. As the SMP level increases, the duty Strategic Commander is able to amend procedure to ensure the HART team are able to support patient care and the Trust when we hit the higher levels of SMP.

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, Head of Information Governance via the following email address:

FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

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