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4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 200602.

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

**Please find below my FOI related to fit testing of respiratory protective equipment.**

- 1. How many medical staff were working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. If it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments (I do not know if you hold a separate register for Covid and non-Covid).**

From the commencement of the Covid-19 Pandemic, all operational patient-facing staff have undergone a programme of fit-testing for FFP3 masks to provide the level of protection specified by Public Health England. Dependent on the shift patterns worked, including absences through annual leave, sickness, self-isolation, it is not possible to provide the numbers requested as a breakdown by month. Our operational staff are either Registered Paramedics or non-registered ambulance clinicians of various grades – we do not have other clinicians undertaking patient-facing roles at this time. Due to the nature of ambulance work we do not identify separate Covid or non-Covid environments – this will be dependent on the situation presented at the scene of the 999 calls/incidents (usually private homes)

- 2. How many of the medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment in Covid-affected environments were fit-tested for that equipment in February 2020, March 2020, April 2020 and May 2020? Please give the numbers broken down by the months; and, if it is possible, please break it down by type of staff member (nurse, doctor, etc) and setting. Again, if it is possible, please separate out those working in Covid-affected environments.**

As stated above, all operational staff have go through a programme of fit-testing to ensure appropriate use of FFP3 masks. This programme continues and is repeated each time a new brand/model of mask is provided to the Trust, which does mean that an individual staff member has been fit-tested multiple times on a variety of masks. To note: staff who have been fit-tested will register as a pass or fail – not every individual passes on each mask.

**If the data is sensitive enough to show where the same staff were fit-tested multiple times, please include that information.**

The data below shows the summary of the records held in terms of the number of staff who have undertaken fit-tests in a number of masks. Note the staff included in this are only those who are undertaking patient-facing operational duties at this time.

<b>Number of FFP3 masks each staff member has been tested on</b>	<b>Number of staff in each category</b>
1	677
2	706
3	468
4	343
5	199
6	68
7	14
8	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2479</b>

- Do you collect data on medical staff working with tight-fitting respiratory protective equipment being fit-tested when they change brand/type of RPE? If so, please give the figures for Feb, March, April and May 2020 as above.**

As stated above, we have data providing details of which staff member has passed on which mask but this is not broken down by date. In addition, there were no firm boundaries when the brand/type of mask was changed – we continue to run with a range of stock that is dependent on what is provided to the Trust via the central NHS PPE logistics service.

**4. Do you track the ethnicity of the staff member with this data? If so, please give the ethnicity breakdowns for the above data for all questions.**

We do not have this data.

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](mailto:FOI@secamb.nhs.uk)

Yours sincerely

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

