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24th June 2020

Email:

Dear,

I am writing in response to your enquiry under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) reference FOI 200617.

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

Please can you tell me how ambulances are assigned areas and how many work in each town etc

SECamb, like all ambulance services, undertake regular reviews of the activity (number and types of calls) they receive. This allows them to consider where best to place their ambulances, how many are needed to meet the contractual response requirements and how to best balance all the resources they have across the whole region that they cover. This information is shared with the Clinical Commissioning Groups who commission SECamb to deliver 999 services across their areas.

SECamb divides the area it covers (Kent, Sussex, Surrey and a small part of Hampshire) into 14 dispatch desk areas – this enables its ambulances and response cars to be divided up and managed effectively in terms of how they are dispatched across each 24hour period. The 14 dispatch desk areas cover both cities, towns and rural areas, and are given the following names:

- Surrey
 - Guildford (covers the area of North East Hampshire as well)
 - Redhill
 - Chertsey
- Sussex
 - Gatwick
 - Tangmere
 - Worthing
 - Brighton
 - Polegate
 - Hastings
- Kent
 - Paddock Wood
 - Ashford
 - Thanet

- Dartford
- Medway

The exact number of ambulances on duty varies by dispatch desk area and by hour and day, however across the whole Trust on a daily basis there are on average 230 ambulances on duty at peak time. As would be expected, whilst all ambulances are generally assigned to a specific area, they are mobile resources and so can move to cover other areas if needed – this is managed via the dispatch desks in the Emergency Operations Centres

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

