



Ref: 0661

**Request:**

Received: 05/03/2010

2008 Annual Report Information:

Involuntary Commitment (arrival of psychiatrically hospital ambulance in police station after custody)

**Response:**

Responded: 10/03/2010

Dear

Thank you for your request for information, placed under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (FOIA).

Our annual report may be accessed at our website at:

[http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/about\\_us/publications.aspx](http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/about_us/publications.aspx)

Our practice in relation to the management of patients in police custody is that primacy of care rests with ambulance staff and that patients should be conveyed to hospital in ambulance vehicles, with accompanying police attendance as may be required. Ambulance staff have no authority to facilitate restraint; this is matter for the police. Ambulance staff also have at their disposal a capacity tool to assess whether a patient has capacity to make an informed decision about whether they wish treatment to be administered or conveyed to hospital for further assessment.

Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett  
Head of Patient Experiences  
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