



Ref: 0667

Request:

Received: 12/03/2010

Query :

Q.1 how many road traffic accidents involving cyclists has the London Ambulance Service attended from the year 2000 to date?

Please break this figure down into figures for each of the ten years and for each borough.

Q.2 how many of these were pronounced dead at the scene?

Please break this figure down to identify the borough and year.



Response:

Responded: 16/03/2010

Dear

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

I can confirm that although we introduced a new set of data codes in April 2009 which enables identification of the vehicles involved in Road Traffic Collision incidents where an ambulance was dispatched to the scene, this does not extend to a sufficient layer of granularity as the data field search groups bicycle and motorcycle incidents together. Neither do we hold information according to local authority area.

Similarly, we do not hold information that can be routinely searched to identify where a patient was declared dead at the scene. For information, although a paramedic can recognise life extinct, only a doctor can certify death.

As we receive in excess of 4000 x 999 calls every day, I am sure you will appreciate that it would therefore take a significant effort to manually identify the information you seek. I estimate that the time which would be taken in determining whether the above information is held, locating and retrieving the material containing that information and extracting the relevant information would take more than 18 hours (the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOIA). Accordingly, relying on Section 12 of the Act, your request for access under the FOIA is refused by the Trust.

I am sorry to provide with what I imagine will be a disappointing response.

I am however obliged to advise you that if you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request you have a right to complain to the Trust and should set out your concerns to Mr Peter Suter, Director of Information Management & Technology, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 220 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8SD. If you then still remain dissatisfied, you have a right under Section 50 of the FOIA to seek a determination from the Information Commissioner on whether the Act has been properly applied by the Trust. For more information, please see www.ico.gov.uk

In closing, may I also explain that it is not necessary to use FOIA as an access mechanism for enquiries of this nature. Can I therefore respectfully suggest that for future reference, media enquiries are placed to our Communications Team accordingly – see http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/talking_with_us.aspx#media

Yours sincerely

Gary Bassett

Head of Patient Experiences, London Ambulance Service NHS Trust