



**Scottish  
Ambulance  
Service**

University National NHS Board



# Freedom of Information Request

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

## Question

So can I please ask the following for each of the following financial years: 2023-24, 2022-23, 2021-22, 2020-21 and 2019-20: How many times were you called out to prisons in your ambulance trust area? Can you please tell me what the Chief Complaint was based on the initial call? Can I ask specifically (if available within the cost limit) how many cases related to suspected drugs overdose, or adverse reaction to drugs? How many times did you convey a prisoner to hospital? How many times specifically (if available within the cost limit) involved conveying patients to hospital – where the reason was a suspected drugs overdose, or adverse reaction to drugs?

## Answer

Under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002, the Scottish Ambulance Service are not required to create information in order to answer a request. There's a distinction between creating new information, and compiling information. Where a request can be answered by compiling information from readily-available resources held by the public authority, this is not the same as creating new information. However, if collation of the information would require skill and complex judgement, the information is not held. I have concluded that, in the case of data about specific locations, we are unable to produce the information requested without complex skill and judgement. This is because, although we hold information about incidents at specific locations and can report this at a postcode level, to report this at an individual address level we would be required to look at each incident and apply complex judgement to see whether the incident occurred with the Prison. The reason for this is that there are multiple addresses within a postcode, there is also the potential for an incident to occur outside a premises and therefore not be attributed to a specific address. In addition, we do not hold incidents against a category of 'Prisons'. The Scottish Ambulance Service does not report using 'free text' searches. It is for this reason that we have applied the exemption Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002 as information not held.