



**Scottish
Ambulance
Service**

University National NHS Board



Freedom of Information Request

1st August 2024

Question

I have become aware that Scottish Ambulance Service Personnel were present and took part in the annual Pride event and march on Saturday 20th of July 2024 starting at Festival Park in Govan. I am also aware that a Scottish Ambulance Service Accident and Emergency ambulance was at this event. This ambulance had a rainbow flag emblazoned on the bonnet and rainbow stickers on its sides. In terms of freedom of information I would like to request full details on the facts listed. 1. Were the Scottish Ambulance Service Staff present at the event and taking part in the procession on duty? If they were on duty, how many were on duty and how much money was spent on staff present at the event and procession. This also includes the senior officers and the Service Chief Executive who was present, were they being paid for being there? Did they claim expenses for being there? If so how much? Did the staff in attendance claim any subsistence allowances for the day or travel expenses? If so, how much? Who authorised staff to be there and any associated costs? 2. The A&E ambulance that was present, was it removed from operational duties to be present in the procession? What station was it from? Was there any shortages of operational vehicles on Saturday 20th July 2024 caused by abstracting this ambulance from operational use? Was the vehicle appropriately insured for use in the procession rather than operational duty? Were any other Service vehicles present or used on the day in connection with the event? If so what vehicles and what costs were incurred? 3. Who funded the rainbow flag and rainbow stickers that adorned the ambulance? If this was the Scottish Ambulance Service how much was spent on this and who authorised this spend? Were the stickers removed prior to the vehicle returning to operational service? If so did this incur cost? If so how much? And who removed them? If not removed, why not? 4. Who paid for the diesel fuel used by the ambulance whilst it was driven to the event, during the procession and the return to its operational station? 5. I noticed that some of the Scottish Ambulance Service staff had rainbows painted on their faces whilst in uniform at the event, was this makeup authorised and in-line with the Service uniform policy? Who authorised the face painting to be allowed for uniformed staff? What is the service uniform policy in relation to makeup, face painting and showing affiliation to any cause whilst in uniform? If the policy has been breached will the staff or authoring officers face misconduct proceedings? If not, why not?

Answer

All Pride events that are organised, are social events organised by individuals on a private/personal basis and not by the Scottish Ambulance Service. We can confirm, no Scottish Ambulance Service finances were used and the Scottish Ambulance service did not sponsor any pride events.



1. Were the Scottish Ambulance Service Staff present at the event and taking part in the procession on duty? If they were on duty, how many were on duty and how much money was spent on staff present at the event and procession. This also includes the senior officers and the Service Chief Executive who was present, were they being paid for being there? Did they claim expenses for being there? If so how much? Did the staff in attendance claim any subsistence allowances for the day or travel expenses? If so, how much? Who authorised staff to be there and any associated costs?

All staff that participated in the event were off duty on rostered days off. Scottish Ambulance Service staff attended during their time and at their own expense; no expenses were claimed from the Scottish Ambulance Service.

2. The A&E ambulance that was present, was it removed from operational duties to be present in the procession? What station was it from? Was there any shortages of operational vehicles on Saturday 20th July 2024 caused by abstracting this ambulance from operational use? Were any other Service vehicles present or used on the day in connection with the event? If so what vehicles and what costs were incurred?

The Ambulance vehicle that attended the event was an operational spare vehicle which is not allocated to a station. There were no shortages to operational fleet on this day in question.

3. Who funded the rainbow flag and rainbow stickers that adorned the ambulance? If this was the Scottish Ambulance Service how much was spent on this and who authorised this spend? a. Were the stickers removed prior to the vehicle returning to operational service? i. If so did this incur cost? ii. If so how much? iii. And who removed them?

The SAS Pride Committee members personally funded the rainbow stickers, It is for this reason we consider the information surrounding costings to be exempt under Section 38 1(b) of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act. An exemption under section 38(1)(b) of FOISA states: information which relates to a living individual other than the applicant for the information will be exempt where the disclosure of the information would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK GDPR and in section 34(1) of the DPA 2018.

This exemption is absolute, so it is not subject to the public interest test in section 2(1) of FOISA (see section 2(2)(e)(ii) of FOISA.)

We can confirm, no Scottish Ambulance Service finances were used and the Scottish Ambulance service did not sponsor any pride events. The stickers were removed by the SAS Pride Committee before the vehicle was returned.

4. Who paid for the diesel fuel used by the ambulance whilst it was driven to the event, during the procession and the return to its operational station? Was the vehicle appropriately insured for use in the procession rather than operational duty?



**Scottish
Ambulance**

The Scottish Ambulance Service pool vehicles are used for supporting a variety of community events, including school visits, local community fun days and Pride events. Every vehicle in the Scottish Ambulance Service is appropriately insured for any community event and fuel to these community events is supplied by the Scottish Ambulance Service.



5. I noticed that some of the Scottish Ambulance Service staff had rainbows painted on their faces whilst in uniform at the event, was this makeup authorised and in-line with the Service uniform policy? Who authorised the face painting to be allowed for uniformed staff? What is the service uniform policy in relation to makeup, face painting and showing affiliation to any cause whilst in uniform? If the policy has been breached will the staff or authoring officers face misconduct proceedings? If not, why not?

The Scottish Ambulance Service understands that the way its staff dress will send messages to the patients they care for and to the public. Health and Safety / Infection Control has been a key factor in garment design and functionality. The Uniform Policy will ensure that a high standard of personal hygiene and appearance is maintained by all staff.

The responsibility for ensuring that the policy is implemented lies with the Scottish Ambulance Service Board and the Chief Executive Officer. On occasions, the Scottish Ambulance Service may issue a temporary amendment to the uniform Policy for a limited period of time, or a specific event. The Scottish Ambulance Service's Chief Executive Officer encourages staff to attend Pride events in their own time and allows the temporary amendment to the uniform policy for staff to paint their face at Pride events as SAS recognises the importance of visibility.