



Ref: FOI/2171

11 April 2017

Ambulance Service Headquarters

Waterfront Business Park

Waterfront Way

Brierley Hill

DY5 1LX

Tel: 01384 215555

Website: www.wmas.nhs.uk

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Further to your enquiry, which we received on 06 February 2017, you requested the following information which we have provided our response in **green** below each question asked for your reference:

I am writing to you to request the information on community first responders blue light use within your trust as I have seen community first responders use blue lights and I have seen some that don't this is a question brought up in many trusts in the UK the question I have are;

- 1) *how many community first responders groups within your trust have authority to use and drive on blue lights***

There are no schemes that have authority to use and drive on blue lights. However, there are currently 75 CFRs in Staffordshire that have individual historical rights around the use of blue lights whilst responding to a 999 call on behalf of the Trust. These arrangements are under review in line with any changes in legislation.

- 2) *What exemptions under blue light use does community first responders in your trust area claim?***

CFR's are not permitted under Trust policy to claim any Blue Light exemptions. However, there are a number exemptions when using non-blue lights that CFR's may claim as set out in legislation.

- 3) *What driver training is proved to community first responders to drive on blue lights in your trust area and who provides this?***

None. We no longer allow CFRs to train in the use of blue lights.

We hope that this answers your request. If you are dissatisfied with our response you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner:

In the first instance you may write to the Chief Executive Officer of this Trust

- Mr A C Marsh
Regional Headquarters
Millennium Point
Waterfront Way
Brierley Hill
West Midlands
DY5 1LX
Tel: 01384 215555

The Chief Executive Officer will then appoint a nominated deputy to oversee and respond to the appeal with their approval.

If you are unhappy with the findings of the Panel you can then write to the Information Commissioner at:

- Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire.
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Kerr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Kerr
Head of Governance and Risk