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Our Ref: FOI.18.005

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30 January 2018

Dear Sir

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Information Request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act which was received on 8 January 2018. I can confirm that we hold the information you have requested. You asked the following questions, reproduced in **bold** below:

I would like to know in an emergency front-line ambulance;

- 1) the reported decibels and vibration levels within the transporting ambulances rear and cab compartments.**

All vehicles adhere to the Control of Noise at Work Regulations Act 2005. Vehicles are noise tested by an independent company whilst going through the manufacturers subjective handling testing.

TEST REPORT



The following internal noise measurements were taken, at the driver and rear saloon occupant positions.

Stationary Test	Driver (db)		Rear Passenger (db)	
	Laeq	Peak dBC	Laeq	Peak dBC
Siren 1	67.3	88.4	59.3	80.3
Siren 2	67.1	84.7	59.8	80.6
Siren 3	66.7	82.1	60.3	77.8

Table 1: Stationary noise results

Vmax (56 mph) Test	Driver (db)		Rear Passenger (db)	
	Laeq	Peak dBC	Laeq	Peak dBC
Siren 1	68.0	94.7	64.8	95.0
Siren 2	67.6	105.7	64.6	93.4
Siren 3	67.1	98.1	64.8	90.8

Table 2: Dynamic noise results

The limits taken from the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 are presented in table 3.

Item	Value (dB)
Lower Exposure Action Value	80
Upper Exposure Action Value	85
Exposure Limit Value	87

Table 3: Exposure limits

The average level of exposure limits are not exceeded and the peak sound pressure is below the maximum exposure limit, in all of the above tests

Exposure limit values and action values

4.—(1) The lower exposure action values are—

- (a) a daily or weekly personal noise exposure of 80 dB (A-weighted); and
- (b) a peak sound pressure of 135 dB (C-weighted).

(2) The upper exposure action values are—

- (a) a daily or weekly personal noise exposure of 85 dB (A-weighted); and
- (b) a peak sound pressure of 137 dB (C-weighted).

(3) The exposure limit values are—

- (a) a daily or weekly personal noise exposure of 87 dB (A-weighted); and
- (b) a peak sound pressure of 140 dB (C-weighted).

(4) Where the exposure of an employee to noise varies markedly from day to day, an employer may use weekly personal noise exposure in place of daily personal noise exposure for the purpose of compliance with these Regulations.

(5) In applying the exposure limit values in paragraph (3), but not in applying the lower and upper exposure action values in paragraphs (1) and (2), account shall be taken of the protection given to the employee by any personal hearing protectors provided by the employer in accordance with regulation 7(2).

Table of exposure limits

	Average level of exposure, dB(A) ^[6]	Peak sound pressure, dB(C) ^[6]
Lower Exposure Limit	80	135
Upper Exposure Limit	85	137
Exposure Limit Value	87	140

2) If these are not recorded how is the estimated noise level recorded?

Please see above

3) I would also like to know the steps taken to prevent hearing damage to staff, patients and paramedic students.

Please see above and note that all vehicles adhere to the Control of Noise at Work Regulations Act 2005

4) How exposure times are monitored for staff and paramedic students.

Please see above and note that all vehicles adhere to the Control of Noise at Work Regulations Act 2005

5) How the noise and vibration levels are monitored both initially and as vehicles age and in what conditions they are tested (i.e is the noise and vibration levels tested in a moving vehicle with all necessary front line ambulance equipment including stretcher?).

Please see above

6) Also can you please advise the model and makes of vehicle tested for front-line transportation of patients.

W.A.S. Sprinter 519 Auto
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If you are not satisfied with the information we have provided, you can request an internal review which will be carried out by someone not involved with your original request. Mr Paul Aitken-Fell is the Trust's Consultant Paramedic, his contact details are:

Paul Aitken-Fell
Consultant Paramedic
North East Ambulance Service NHS FT Trust
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If you remain unhappy with the outcome of the review, you can ultimately complain to:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Mark Cotton
Freedom of Information Lead