



Ref: FOI/2398

22 January 2018

**Ambulance Service Headquarters**  
Waterfront Business Park  
Brierley Hill  
West Midlands  
DY5 1LX  
Tel: 01384 215555  
website: [www.wmas.nhs.uk](http://www.wmas.nhs.uk)

[request-455388-3095f125@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-455388-3095f125@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Creed

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

Further to your enquiry, which we received on 05 January 2018, you requested the following information:

*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.*
- 2) If these are not recorded how is the estimated noise level recorded?*
- 3) I would also like to know the steps taken to prevent hearing damage to staff, patients and paramedic students.*
- 4) How exposure times are monitored for staff and paramedic students.*
- 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?).*
- 6) Also can you please advise the model and makes of vehicle tested for front-line transportation of patients.*

**Response**

Extensive independent testing has taken place, covering different daily exposure scenarios. That can be summarised by the following table:

<b>Daily Exposure Conditions</b>	<b>Driver</b>	<b>Front Passenger</b>	<b>Rear Passenger</b>
8hr/shift – 64 min Siren Usage	74.7	77.3	74.1
8hr/shift – 70 min Siren Usage	74.8	77.4	74.3
12hr/shift – 96 min Siren Usage	76.5	79	75.9
12hr/shift – 106 min Siren Usage	76.6	79.1	76.1

Should there be a significant change in the construction of the vehicle or parts utilised (Siren) then we will ensure further testing is carried out to ensure suitability and compliance with The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.

The vehicle utilised in testing was:

Fiat Ducato 3.0 Diesel which was a fully operational vehicle which was under full load out (including all equipment such as a stretcher).

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**

**Lynsey Kumari**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**