



30 April 2018

Headquarters
Springhill 2
Wakefield 41 Business Park
Brindley Way
WAKEFIELD
WF2 0XQ

John Smith
request-474819-81e4637c@whatdotheyknow.com

Tel: 01924 584116
www.yas.nhs.uk

Ref: 2018/19-002

Dear Mr Smith

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request received by Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust (the Trust) on 03 April 2018. Please find our responses below.

Your request

Please can you provide me with your current policy for response (blue light) emergency driving?

Please can you also answer the following questions?

- 1. Does the driver of the ambulance make the decision to put the blue lights on since it is them claiming the exemption or does the Trust tell a driver when to respond? E.g. you must put your blue lights on for all purple, amber and yellow calls?*
- 2. Your calls are currently graded as the following: (as per your right response first time campaign on social media)*

Purple – seven minute response

Amber – 18 minutes response

Yellow – 120 minutes response

Green – 180 minutes response

Yellows and greens are currently classed as urgent calls. If a call is an urgent (yellow or green) would you expect your staff to respond to these on blue lights or is it their decision to make as the driver based on the information they receive?

Trust response

We can confirm that the Trust holds the information requested.

Please can you provide me with your current policy for response (blue light) emergency driving?

Please refer to the enclosed documents.

Please can you also answer the following questions?

- 1. Does the driver of the ambulance make the decision to put the blue lights on since it them claiming the exemption or does the Trust tell a driver when to respond? E.g. you must put your blue lights on for all purple, amber and yellow calls.***

Determining the appropriate use of blue lights is ultimately the responsibility of the driver irrespective of the category of response.

There are justifiable reasons for the use of blue lights in which exemptions under Road Traffic legislation can be claimed when responding to a call triaged into the categories of one, two and three.

- 2. Your calls are currently graded as the following: (as per your right response first time campaign on social media)***

Purple – 7 minute response

Amber – 18 minute response

Yellow – 120 minute response

Green – 180 minute response

Yellows and greens are currently classed as urgent calls. If a call is an urgent (yellow or green) would you expect your staff to respond to these on blue lights or is it their decision to make as the driver based on the information they receive?

Category three calls are responded to as an emergency response under emergency conditions i.e. using blue lights and sirens. Whilst these calls are not described as immediately life-threatening, the patient still requires a timely response. The triage tools used to assign a response category provide an indication of the likely condition of the patient, but may not form a complete picture and the definitive position cannot be established until the patient has had a face to face clinical assessment.

Category four calls are for less urgent calls. If a face to face clinical assessment is required then it is unlikely that it would require a response under emergency conditions i.e. using blue lights and sirens.

If you have any queries about the information we have provided then please contact the FOI team via email: foi@yas.nhs.uk Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

We hope this response meets your requirements but if you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled. You can request an internal review by contacting the Yorkshire Ambulance Service FOI team: email: foi@yas.nhs.uk; postal address: Springhill 2, Brindley Way, Wakefield 41 Business Park, Wakefield, WF2 0XQ

We will only consider requests for Internal Reviews, which are received within two months of the date of response. This is in line with ICO guidance <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. More information about how to appeal is available on the Information Commissioner's website at www.ico.org.uk/concerns/getting/

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Response issued by:

Legal Services Department

Email: foi@yas.nhs.uk

Tel: 01924 584116