



Our ref: 2011-103

9 September 2011

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www.yas.nhs.uk

Dear Mr Dent

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

You requested the following information:

In your Annual Report for 2008/9 referring to the cycle paramedic service in Sheffield, you state that a 'full evaluation of its effectiveness will be carried out...' I would be grateful for a copy of the report of this evaluation.

We have sent you a copy of the Pilot Project Report as an attachment within your emailed response.

I would also like a copy of any assessment made more recently prior to the suspension of the service in Sheffield this summer. I would be grateful if you could ensure that latter material covers:

a) Any assessment of impact on response times in central Sheffield

We are unable to provide you with a response to **Question A** as the Trust does not report the data at that level.

b) Any assessment of the numbers of cases likely to be affected by the suspension of the service

c) Any assessment on the equality impacts of the suspension

With regard to the temporary suspension of the scheme in Sheffield, the Trust recognises that the Cycle Response Unit has achieved some positive community feedback and does provide us with a visible and reassuring city

centre presence with the ability to reach patients quickly, however they do not possess the ability to cover the same response 'footprint' as a traditional ambulance or fast response car.

Whilst recognising that vehicles are not as 'green' or as carbon neutral as a pedal cycle, they ensure we are able to reach more patients and deliver positive outcomes and performance on a much wider basis. Vehicle deployed clinicians are equally capable of treating people on scene and reducing hospital admissions to the same extent as a Cycle Response Unit.

During the summer period the demand pressures on our service are higher, in other words we transport more patients and attend more calls as a result for July alone the demand figures were up by just under 2% in Sheffield, which is why we need to ensure that we can manage our deployable resources to achieve optimum cover and deliver the best possible patient outcomes, to that end we have chosen to suspend the Sheffield Cycle Response Team but will however review the suspension of the scheme over time as part of a dynamic management of our resource/deployment plans.

The review will consider what is the most appropriate decision for the Trust and each Clinical Business Unit but in this case must first consider the quality of patient outcomes achieved, this is not because we have decided to suspend the team indefinitely, we just need to be clear that any decision is first and foremost about patient outcomes.

The cycle response unit is a positive means of response but it is not a priority delivery medium for the Trust, our core service delivery is delivered via the use of traditional vehicles, due to time, geographic constraints and the limited number of staff we can deploy as a Trust.

I hope this information meets your requirements, but if you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

David Whiting, Chief Executive, Yorkshire Ambulance Service, Springhill 2, Brindley Way, Wakefield 41 Business Park, Wakefield, WF2 0XQ.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Response issued by:

YAS Executive Office