



Freedom of Information Request

24 November 2022

Question

I would like to know:

I am looking for information regarding how many ambulances have been single-crewed in each financial year since 2017 to date (2022/23). More specifically, I would like the total number of ambulances that were single-crewed in each year, and not simply percentages. Can I also have a breakdown of the data by location?

Answer

Please find below the data requested showing the data held against “single crewed” for the date periods requested. The data definition for “single crewed” is the number of double-crewed ambulances, showing only one member of staff for the duration of the entire shift period. This data is broken down to our regional levels within the Scottish Ambulance service.

		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23*
East	Single Crew Shifts	662	632	797	526	663	537
	% Shifts Single Crewed	No Data	1.3%	1.7%	1.1%	1.3%	1.7%
North	Single Crew Shifts	1,012	1,306	1,041	696	1,103	675
	% Shifts Single Crewed	No Data	3.4%	2.7%	1.9%	2.9%	3.0%
West	Single Crew	1,168	1,128	1,224	884	937	676

	Shifts						
	% Shifts Single Crewed	No Data	1.6%	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.6%
Scotland	Single Crew Shifts	2,842	3,066	3,062	2,106	2,719	1,888
	% Shifts Single Crewed	No Data	2.0%	2.0%	1.3%	1.7%	2.0%

*2022/23 data is reported to October 2022

Please note this is reported by shifts and not by incidents attended.

The Scottish Ambulance Service does not routinely roster staff to be on their own in a double crewed vehicle. Every effort is made to double crew shifts, however there are occasions when some shifts will be single-crewed due to short notice, unplanned staff absence where additional staffing cannot be arranged.

It is important to note that on these call-outs single crew staff members are tasked appropriately and backed up as necessary.