



Freedom of Information Request

17 January 2023

Question

I would like to know:

In the last six months, how many air ambulances with a hospital as their destination - have had to divert to a different hospital or airport, because no patient transport would be/was available on the ground?

If you could please provide a breakdown by month.

If you could please provide a breakdown for each case - if it was an emergency, or non-emergency situation.

If you could please provide a breakdown for each case - which hospital was the original destination, and where the air ambulance had to divert to.

Note: 'In the last six months' - refers to the time period from 01 July 2022 to 22 December 2022.

Note: For context, I know this was the case in at least one case on 08 December 2022 - where an air ambulance had to divert from Crosshouse Hospital to Glasgow Airport due to no patient transport being available on the ground - in a non emergency situation - as reported here

<https://www.lbc.co.uk/news/patients-300-yard-trip-hospital-helipad-ward-50-mile-journey/>

Answer

Although the Service is aware of the one incident which has been reported in the media, we consider your request for information to be exempt from disclosure as per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002.

The identification and collation of any possible further incidents would require advanced skill and complex judgement and it is for this reason that we have applied the exemption above.

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