



South East Coast Ambulance Service  
The Horseshoe  
Bolters Lane  
Banstead  
Surrey  
SM7 2AS

[enquiries@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@secamb.nhs.uk)  
[www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk)

**Sent electronically via email**

22 January 2010

Dear Mr Wickenden

Apologies for the delay in our response. I am writing on behalf of Geraint Davies who is currently on annual leave.

The original consultation on women and children's services at MTW was conducted in 2004, two years before South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust's (SECAMB) conception. As such the former Kent and Sussex Ambulance Services were involved in the consultation. The two trusts submitted evidence to the Kent and East Sussex County Councils' NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2005 stating that they were able to support the changes as long as any additional resources required would be funded by the commissioners. I can confirm that this is still the position today.

It was agreed between the ambulance trusts and MTW at the time that detailed resource planning would need to commence 18 months prior to any changes taking place.

Again, this is still the case for SECAMB and this work starts in earnest this month (January 2010), a year and a half prior to the opening of the new hospital at Pembury. A central part of this work is to ensure that should additional ambulances and training of crews be required that these are in place prior to the changes occurring in June 2011. As detailed resource planning commences this month, we are yet unable to provide you with information about the financial implications.



Finally, please find a table below detailing the number of inter-facility transfers between Kent and Sussex, Maidstone and Medway and Pembury hospitals. Please note that this is the total number of patient transfer for the last calendar year (2009) and covers a range of patient conditions, not just maternity related. This is because it is not possible, because of the way that inter-facility transfer information is recorded, as opposed to 999 incidents, to always obtain the patient's clinical condition.

<b>Originating Site</b>	<b>Transferred to</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Maidstone	Pembury	48
	Kent & Sussex	112
Pembury	Kent & Sussex	51
	Maidstone	5
Kent & Sussex	Maidstone	43
	Pembury	148

The average journey times under normal driving conditions are as follows:

Kent and Sussex to Pembury / Pembury to Kent and Sussex                      10 minutes  
3.2 miles

Medway to Pembury / Pembury to Medway    50 minutes  
24.6 miles

Maidstone to Pembury / Pembury to Maidstone    26 minutes  
13.6 miles

Obviously driving under emergency conditions (blue lights and sirens) these times are likely to be reduced. The decision to drive under emergency conditions will be made by the clinician on board and will be based on the clinical need of the patient.

I hope that this response provides adequate clarification on the points you raised.

With kind regards,

**Darren Reynolds**  
**Head of Business Development**

Cc: Geraint Davies, Director of Business Development, SECAMB