



Title:	Corporate Risk Management Policy		
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Ownership:	Maxine Paterson, Director of Planning, Performance & Corporate Services		
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Other Relevant Policies / Procedures:	Health and Safety Policy and Procedures, Risk Assessment Procedure, Complaints Policy, Board Assurance Framework, Information Governance Policies and Procedures, PPI Strategy, Serious Adverse Incidents (SAI) Procedure, Incident Reporting Procedure, Management of Medical Devices Policy, Claims Management Policy, Whistle Blowing Policy, Infection, Prevention & Control Policy & Procedures		

Version Control:			
Date:	Version:	Author:	Comments:
April 2022	3.0	Risk Manager	Scheduled review
April 2019	2.0	Risk Manager	Scheduled review
October 2016	1.0	Risk Manager	New

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

How effectively we manage risk directly impacts on how effective we are as an organisation.

1.1 Background:

This Corporate Risk Management Policy sets out the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust's (NIAS) approach to the management of risk across the organisation. This Policy is supported by the Corporate Risk Management Strategy which establishes a framework for the effective and systematic management of risk across NIAS. Both the Policy and Strategy form part of the Trust's internal control and corporate governance arrangements.

1.2 Purpose/Aim/Objective(s):

The purpose/overall aim of this Corporate Risk Management Policy is to demonstrate the corporate commitment to effective risk management, calling upon all NIAS employees to engage in, and be responsible for managing relevant risks.

2.0 SCOPE:

Risk is an inherent aspect of emergency care and its supporting activities. This Corporate Risk Management Policy applies to all aspects and activities of the Trust; it covers the management of all risks across the organisation.

3.0 ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

In the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, risk management it is everyone's business. Everyone is both a risk taker and a risk manager, regardless of level, role or location, and it is essential that everyone takes relevant responsibility for delivering effective risk management, so as to support the continual improvement of a vital service.

The Corporate Risk Management Strategy includes a section on responsibilities which defines key corporate level roles / accountabilities.

4.0 KEY POLICY PRINCIPLES:

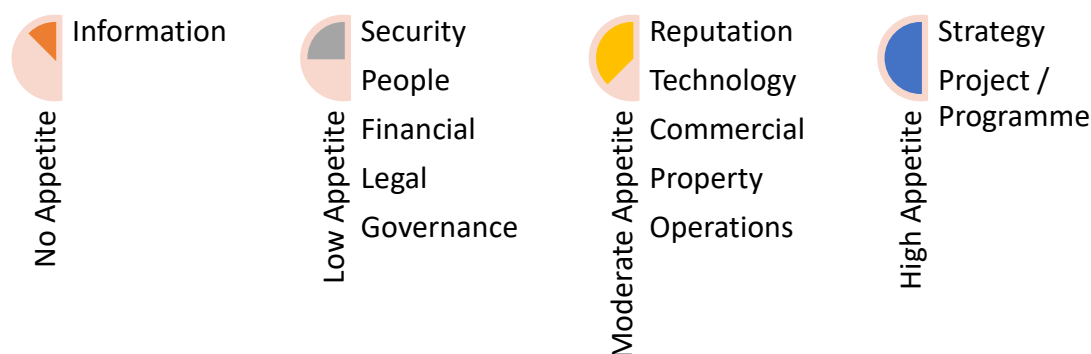
At the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS) we recognise that effective risk management is essential in achieving our strategic aims and objectives as identified within its Strategy to Transform 2020-2026 and associated Corporate Plans.

There is a clear recognition that we must accept a level of risk in order to meet the high standard we set ourselves, and that is expected by the society we serve in the provision of a service in a potentially uncontrolled, unstable or even hostile environment. We accept the potential costs of such risks in the realisation that the benefits to patients can outweigh the risks; for example in emergency driving, Rapid Response Paramedics working alone and in the work of Hazardous Area Response Teams (HART). We acknowledge our staff regularly accept and manage significant risk in order to help others; for them not to do this would render us a much less effective organisation.

Each significant risk will be assessed individually when deciding whether it is within our risk appetite (tolerable), or whether additional controls (terminate, treat or transfer) are required. The following risk appetite principles will be applied.

Risk Appetite	What This Means
Extreme Risk – No Appetite	We are not prepared to accept uncertainty of outcomes for this type of risk.
High Risk – Low Appetite	We accept that a low level of uncertainty exists but expect that risks are managed to a level that may not substantially impede the ability to achieve objectives.
Moderate Risk – Moderate Appetite	We accept a moderate level of uncertainty but expect that risks are managed to a level that may only delay or disrupt achievement of objectives, but will not stop their progress.
Low Risk - High Appetite	We accept a high level of uncertainty and expect that risks may only be managed to a level that may significantly impede the ability to achieve objectives.

In addition, the following risk appetite principles are applied within NIAS listed by category (see Corporate Risk Management Strategy, Appendix 9 for further information on Risk Categories):



With the above in mind, through the implementation of this Policy and the Corporate Risk Management Strategy, so far as is reasonably practicable, we will ensure the following:

- The comprehensive identification, assessment and overall management (including timely escalation) of all types of risks in order to achieve our objectives.
- Staff have suitable training to help them make balanced/difficult judgements on risk.
- That opportunities are exploited to improve practice and embed good practice where this is identified.
- That effective and efficient assurance processes are in place.
- Adequate policies and procedures are in place for the purpose of internal control.
- A high standard of incident reporting, escalation and management.
- Learning from adverse incidents and from examples of good practice is disseminated and implemented across the entire organisation.
- Everyone is accountable and responsible for their actions.
- The further development of open, honest and just (fair) culture.
- Arrangements are in place to manage risks highlighted by audits/inspections.
- Continual improvement in risk management and therefore the quality of care.

Through effective risk management we will endeavour to provide a safe environment for patients, staff and visitors by reducing and where possible eliminating the risk of harm. We will provide a service that is responsive, safe, high- quality, patient focused, clinically effective, financially viable, legally compliant and well governed.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY:

5.1 Dissemination:

- Directors and Assistant Directors will disseminate to all staff.
- It is available on the Internet, Intranet and SharePoint so that all employees and members of the public/stakeholders can easily have access.
- It is on the notice boards in all operational areas.
- It is included in Corporate Induction, Employee Resource Packs and Workbooks.

5.2 Resources:

Whilst there are no additional resources required for the implementation of this Policy, everyone should be encouraged to identify and report risks and should be provided with the time necessary to manage them in accordance with the Corporate Risk Management Strategy.

5.3 Exceptions:

This Policy applies to all those working within, providing services to or acting on behalf of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust. There are no exceptions.

6.0 MONITORING:

It is the responsibility of Trust Board and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee to monitor the implementation of and assess the level of compliance with this procedure.

7.0 EVIDENCE BASE/REFERENCES:

- The Orange Book – Management of Risk – Principles & Concepts. HM Government.
- ISO 31000 Risk Management Principles and Guidelines.
- Risk Management Standard for Ambulance Services – NHSLA 2013-14.
- Enterprise Risk Management – Institute of Risk Management.
- Corporate governance code for central government departments. HM Government.
- The Principles of Managing Risks to the Public. HM Government.

8.0 CONSULTATION PROCESS:

This Corporate Risk Management Policy was developed by the Risk Manager in consultation with the Director of Planning, Performance & Corporate Services and the Senior Executive Management Team. The Policy has been approved by Trust Board on recommendation by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY STATEMENT:

9.1 In line with duties under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998; Targeting Social Need Initiative; Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Human Rights Act 1998, an initial screening exercise, to ascertain if this policy should be subject to a full impact assessment, has been carried out.

9.2 The outcome of the equality screening for this policy undertaken on the 1st April 2022 is:

Major impact

Minor impact

No impact.

10.0 SIGNATORIES:



Katrina Keating
Lead Author

Date: 14th April 2022



Maxine Paterson
Lead Director

Date: 14th April 2022