



20 July 2022

Email:

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-2712-22

**Subject:** Estate Strategy – Clinical Response Model

**Request:**                   **Date Received:**                   10/04/2022  
                                  **Date of Monitoring:**               12/04/2022  
                                  **Date of Response:**               20/07/2022

Thank you for your request for information received on 15 March 2022 which was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) Health and Social Care Trust has now completed its search for the information you requested and that is detailed below. The Trust would fully apologise for the delay in the provision of a response.

**Question 1**

Supply the estates strategy relating to the clinical response model

**Question 2**

Supply which of your facilities are to be 'make-ready' facilities

**Answer 1-2**

In relation to Question 1-2 above we can confirm that the Trust holds the information that you have requested, however it is exempt from disclosure because it is intended for future publication. We are not obliged under section 22 of the FOIA to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption, we have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the information ahead of publication, despite the exemption being applicable.

In this case, the Trust has concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information. When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

**Public interest considerations favouring disclosure**

- Disclosure of the information under FOIA would be consistent with the Trust's commitment to proactively publish data on matters of a wider public interest.



## **Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information**

- As the information is of interest to the wider public it is important it can be accessed simultaneously by the general public rather than piecemeal by disclosure to a small number of individuals under the FOIA. Therefore it is in the wider interest that information is accessible to the wider public by adhering to the publication schedule.
- The Estates Strategy is not yet completed and is required to go through the standard internal quality assurance checks, approval by Trust Board and scrutiny by the Department of Health Property Management Branch and may be subject to further revision before publication. It is in the public interest that the above processes conclude before making information available to the public to ensure confidence and accuracy in the information disclosed.
- As the Estates Strategy is not yet complete and the assurance process is ongoing, early release of the requested information could be misrepresentative or misleading to the wider greater public.

The Trust reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 22 of the FOIA at this time. A date for the publication of the information is not yet known as this is dependent on the above process taking place.

### **Question 3**

Advise on the progress of the CRM business case with the Department of Health.

### **Answer 3**

The organisations CRM business case was submitted to the Department of Health in December 2021. We are still awaiting a response from the department on the business case as it is progressed through their processes.

Please note that, under the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations, if you wish to publish or otherwise use this information besides for your own means, you will need to seek our permission to do so.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Director of Planning, Performance and Corporate Services, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) HSC Trust, Site 30, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8SG.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the Trust has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

**Website:** [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

**Telephone:** 028 9027 8757 or 0303 123 1114 (Belfast based Office)

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that NIAS replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.niamb.co.uk>. Personal details in respect of your request will have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Yours sincerely

*(not signed – issued by email)*

**Information Governance Department**