



7 November 2024

Email:

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** 33477-24

**Subject:** Ambulance crews on duty on Saturday nights

**Date Received:** 30/08/2024

Thank you for your request for information received on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 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.

**Question 1 Emergency Ambulance Crews on Duty:**

- Please provide the number of emergency ambulance crews that were on duty across Northern Ireland on each Saturday night in 2024 until now (from Saturday 6th January to 24th August 2024.)
- If possible, please break down the figures by location or region (e.g., Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, etc.)

**Answer**

Please see attached table which has been broken down by Divisional Operational area – ‘33477 Spreadsheet’.

**Question 2 Department of Health Guidance:**

- Please provide any official Department of Health guidance or recommendations regarding the number of emergency ambulance crews that should be on duty across Northern Ireland for a typical Saturday night.

**Answer**

There is no official DOH guidance in relation to the number of emergency ambulance crews that should be on duty at any specific time.

Based on the level of commissioned hours of cover NIAS determines how best to deploy its resources to match demand.

The number of Double Crewed Ambulances planned for a typical Saturday night in each Division is as follows:

North Division = 12

Belfast Division = 7

West Division = 12

South Division = 10

Southeast Division = 11





I hope the above fully assists you.

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:

**Email:** [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)  
**Website:** [ICO Website](http://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 @ <https://nias.hscni.net> Personal details in respect of your request will have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Yours sincerely

*(not signed – issued by email)*

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**Information Governance Team**

