



28 May 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 31409-24
Subject: Disaster Recovery Plan(s)
Date Received: 13th August 2024

Thank you for your request for information received on 13th 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.

FOI QUESTION(S)	ANSWER(S)
1. Copies of any disaster recovery plan or strategy document that the trust holds.	The NIAS would advise that the below exemption has been applied to the release of any disaster recovery plans/strategy documents held. Refusal Notice applied under Section 31(1)(a) (prevention or detection of crime). Disclosing this information could make the organisation's systems more vulnerable to exploitation, thereby prejudicing crime prevention.
2. Copies of any commitments to produce such a document or strategy by trust leaders, including the date(s) the commitments were made and the date by which the plan is to be completed.	The NIAS have commitments and have produced documents in line with Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Strategy and the new NIAS Incident Response Plan which went live 31 st March 2025. The launch was referenced on the NIAS website (link provided below). NIAS Launches new Incident Response Plan NIAS

Exemption claimed in respect of Section 31(1)(a) prevention or detection of crime	
Considerations in Favour of Disclosing	Considerations in Favour of Not Disclosing
-Can help ensure that public authorities are being responsible for public resources.	-DRP are evolving – disclosure might cause misunderstanding or panic.



<p>-Demonstrates public authorities have proper procedures in place to manage risk, building on public trust.</p>	<p>-Disclosure could enable malicious actors to exploit identified systems, jeopardising operational security.</p>
<p>-Provides assurance that services will remain available in a crisis.</p>	<p>-The risk of unauthorised access to systems could compromise sensitive organisational and personal data, impacting patient safety and organisational integrity.</p>
	<p>-releasing details of DRP could increase risk, not reduce it.</p>

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
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)

Information Governance Team