



5 January 2024

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 17785-23

Subject: Drug Related Ambulance Call Outs – 2022 / 2023

Received: 15/08/2023

Date of Monitoring: 16/08/2023

Thank you for your request for information received on 15 August 2023 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

How many drug related overdose callouts did you receive in the year 2022?

Answer 1

2167 overdose calls were responded to during 2022.

Question 2

According to your most recent data, how many overdose callouts have you received in 2023?

Answer 2

From 1st January to 29th August 2023, 1402 overdose calls were responded to.

Question 3

How many overdose callouts required the use of naloxone on patients? Please specify separately for the year 2022 and thus far in 2023.

Answer 3

Total number of patients who required Naloxone in 2022 = 957

Total number of patients who required Naloxone from 1 Jan – 29 Aug 2023 = 703

Question 4

What is the average amount of naloxone given to a patient in an overdose callout in 2023?
What was the average amount of naloxone given to a patient in an overdose callout in 2022?

Answer

The average amount of naloxone given to a patient in an overdose callout from 1st Jan – 29 Aug 2023 is 812 mcg



The average amount of naloxone given to a patient in an overdose callout in 2022 is 1443 mcg

Please note the average figures for administration have been calculated based on information extracted from all electronic patient report forms during the requested period (January 2022 to 29 August 2023) with 'Naloxone' reported as dispensed by NIAS staff, and their 'administeredDosage' and 'Medication_Unit'.

Medication_Route excludes IN (intranasal) delivery doses as this was introduced late in 2022 and offers no suitable comparison across the two years.

The IN Medication_Route also uses different 'administeredDosage' and a 'Medication_Unit' that cannot be easily reconciled with the provided data.

Question 5

How many drug-related medical emergency callouts have also seen the police being called out/present? Please specify separately for the year 2022 and thus far in 2023. If you cannot give an overall number of times police are also dispatched, can you provide the number of times the ambulance service has called for police attendance?

Answer 5

For the year 2022 the number of overdose responses where police have been informed is 405.

From 1st Jan until 29 August 2023 the number of overdose responses where police have been informed is 241.

Question 6

Please can you outline your ambulance trusts' policies or guidelines for calling the police when drug-related medical emergencies occur.

Answer 6

NIAS does not have a policy to automatically inform the police when drug-related medical emergencies occur.

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

Website: [ICO Website](http://www.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
Team**