



12 October 2023

Email:

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** 21015-23  
**Subject:** Air-Driven Nebulisers  
**Date Received:** 20/09/2023  
**Date of Monitoring:** 21/09/2023

Thank you for your request for information received on 20 September 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) Does your organisation use air-driven nebulisation? If so, is this routinely available on all emergency operations ambulances, or only on specialist resources (please expand on why if the latter)?

If the answer is 'No', please would you mind explaining why. Any reasoning is useful, whether its due to cost, training, space on ambulances, operating issues, or just because it hasn't been raised as an issue for consideration within your organisation etc.

If the answer is 'Yes':

- 2) What type/s of nebuliser do you use? Jet / ultrasonic wave / vibrating mesh / other
- 3) Are other products required to operate the nebuliser? Examples may include air cylinders, alternative preparations of respiratory medications, consumable parts such as air filters etc.
- 4) How are the nebulisers powered? Please provide information about battery charging, if applicable.
- 5) Are the nebulisers portable or connected to the ambulance?
- 6) Did your organisation measure any outcomes and/or gain any feedback when air-driven nebulisers were first introduced to the pre-hospital setting?
- 7) Are there any particular operational or clinician issues that have arisen from the use of air-driven nebulisers in your organisation?

**Answer**

The NIAS do not use air-driven nebulisation devices.



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://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**