Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Health and Social Care Trust

24 October 2023

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 22048-23

Subject: Electric Vehicle Staff Scheme

Date Received: 29/09/2023

Date of Monitoring: 02/10/2023

Thank you for your request for information received on 29 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
How long has the Trust been offering staff a scheme whereby they can lease an Electric Vehicle for their own personal use?
Answer 1
A new staff benefit, Car Leasing Scheme, has been launched within NIAS with effect from 20 May 2023.

Question 2
How many members of staff currently avail of the scheme?
Answer 2
22

Question 3
Can you provide, in the form of a table, a yearly breakdown of staff uptake of the scheme, during each if the financial years the scheme has been going?
Answer 3
FY 2023-24 Currently 22

Question 4
Can you provide A breakdown in the form of a table, the number of staff by band who currently avail of the scheme?

Answer 4

Due to the low numbers within each banding tier and the risk of identification of staff, we have provided the banding tiers below with a combined total.

Bands 5, 6, 8B and 8C avail of the scheme, a total of 22 staff.

Question 5

Can you provide details on the number of EV charging points that are situated on Trust property, and which sites they are located.

Answer 5

The current number of EV Charging points on NIAS locations is 10. The ambulance stations or sites where these are located are as follows:

- Altnagelvin
- Ballymena
- Bridge End
- Broadway
- Coleraine
- Craigavon Southern Divisional HQ Building
- Enniskillen
- Foyle Villa Knockbracken, Belfast
- NIAS HQ Modular Building Knockbracken, Belfast
- Omagh

Question 6

a) Does the Trust permit staff to charge their own EV vehicle at these charging points, mentioned in question 5.

Answer 6a

Currently Yes.

Question 6

b) And is there a charge to staff for doing this?

Answer 6b

Currently No.

Question 6

c) are the Trust / Staff aware that this might be seen as a benefit in kind?

Answer 6c

Under S237A Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 there is an exemption for workplace charging of electric vehicles.

Where an employee is provided with workplace facilities for charging a battery of a vehicle, no taxable benefit in kind arises.

Also, provision of electricity and connected services by an employer for a company car is exempt under S239 (2) Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

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
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)

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Information Governance Team