



5 February 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 35186-25
Subject: NIAS Operational Services Information Request
Date Received: 02/01/2025
Date of Monitoring: 08/01/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 2nd January 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.

1. Does the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service have the equivalent rank of an Advanced Paramedic/ Advanced Paramedic Practitioner? If not, why not?	1. The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service currently employs eight Advance Paramedics (critical care)
2. What rank would usually be in an RRV (Rapid Response Vehicle)?	2. Rapid Response Paramedic is a clinical grade that does not carry a rank
3. Does an RRV carry additional medical equipment and drugs that a regular emergency ambulance would not carry?	3. Rapid Response Vehicles carry the same drugs as would be used on a Double Crewed Ambulance (DCA) by a Paramedic
4. Does the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service have ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances which the crew on board would consist of either a Paramedic or an above rank (if there is one) and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or two paramedics/ an above clinical rank and BLS (Basic Life Support) ambulances which the crew on board would consist of either an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a lower clinical rank (if there is one) or two Emergency Medical Technicians? If not are all ambulances within NIAS ALS or BLS?	4. NIAS attempts to plan all of its Double Crewed Ambulances with a Paramedic and an Emergency Medical Technician. On occasion, depending on available resources, this combination can be Paramedic/Paramedic EMT/EMT Where a Paramedic is part of the crew, all DCAs are capable of providing ALS. Where a Paramedic is not on board the DCA, then the crew will only provide BLS



5. What was the average waiting time for an emergency ambulance in 2024?	5. For the calendar year 2024, the average response time by category was as follows Category 1 12:05 Category 2 58:47 Category 3 146:26 Category 4 177:30
6. What is the command rank structure within NIAS?	6. Operational Ranks are as follows Director of Operations Assistant Director of Operations Ambulance Service Area Manager Station Officers Hospital Ambulance Liaison Officer Station Supervisors Paramedic (including RRV)* Emergency Medical Technician* Ambulance Care Attendant* *these are clinical grades and not considered a rank
7. What percentage of emergency calls that NIAS attended were mental health related in 2024?	7. For the calendar year 2024, 5.06% of all emergency calls attended by NIAS were related to mental health issues

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 @ <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