



1 September 2025

Email:

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** 36250-25  
**Subject:** the use of private ambulances  
**Date Received:** 21/02/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025 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. How much did the trust spend in each of the last seven financial years on private ambulances? Please provide full year data breakdowns for 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 along with data for 2024/25 to the latest possible date in the current financial year.	Financial Year	Private Ambulances (£)
	2018/19	3,266,504
	2019/20	5,243,800
	2020/21	10,145,690
	2021/22	9,735,649
	2022/23	9,234,546
	2023/24	7,377,932
	2024/25 (Apr 24 - Feb 25 only)	9,462,186



<p>2. Please provide a breakdown for the figures in q1 showing how much of the total spend on private ambulance services in each financial year was for both frontline 999 ambulance care and patient transport. I would like this data in financial years with separate figures for both frontline 999 care and patient transport.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="697 232 951 338">Financial Year</th> <th data-bbox="951 232 1217 338">Frontline Private Ambulances (£)</th> <th data-bbox="1217 232 1474 338">Non-Frontline Private Ambulances (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 338 951 416">2018/19</td> <td data-bbox="951 338 1217 416">-</td> <td data-bbox="1217 338 1474 416">3,266,504</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 416 951 495">2019/20</td> <td data-bbox="951 416 1217 495">1,966,087</td> <td data-bbox="1217 416 1474 495">3,277,713</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 495 951 573">2020/21</td> <td data-bbox="951 495 1217 573">3,299,376</td> <td data-bbox="1217 495 1474 573">6,846,314</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 573 951 651">2021/22</td> <td data-bbox="951 573 1217 651">2,911,457</td> <td data-bbox="1217 573 1474 651">6,824,192</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 651 951 730">2022/23</td> <td data-bbox="951 651 1217 730">3,021,321</td> <td data-bbox="1217 651 1474 730">6,213,225</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 730 951 808">2023/24</td> <td data-bbox="951 730 1217 808">3,602,440</td> <td data-bbox="1217 730 1474 808">3,775,492</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="697 808 951 898">2024/25 (Apr 24 - Feb 25 only)</td> <td data-bbox="951 808 1217 898">4,925,336</td> <td data-bbox="1217 808 1474 898">4,536,850</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Frontline Private Ambulances (£)	Non-Frontline Private Ambulances (£)	2018/19	-	3,266,504	2019/20	1,966,087	3,277,713	2020/21	3,299,376	6,846,314	2021/22	2,911,457	6,824,192	2022/23	3,021,321	6,213,225	2023/24	3,602,440	3,775,492	2024/25 (Apr 24 - Feb 25 only)	4,925,336	4,536,850
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<p>3. Please provide a list of the companies the trust uses or has used for frontline 999 ambulance work and patient transport with a financial yearly breakdown of how much each company has been paid for the last seven financial years. Please use the same yearly breakdowns as in q1 and please indicate what services each company provided.</p>	<p>The Trust has used the following companies to provide both Frontline and Non-Frontline support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Light Transfers Limited</li> <li>Proparamedics Ltd</li> <li>Western Ambulance Service Ni Ltd</li> <li>Coastal Core Ltd</li> <li>British Red Cross</li> <li>J&amp;K Coaches Ltd</li> <li>Patient Discharge Services Ltd</li> <li>Jace Ambulance</li> <li>Salus Medical</li> <li>Water &amp; Rescue Training Uk</li> <li>St John Ambulance Ni Erne Villa</li> <li>Emt Limited</li> <li>Order Of Malta Ireland Ballymena Unit</li> <li>955 Safety Ltd</li> <li>Festimed Ltd</li> <li>Belfast Private Ambulance Service Ltd</li> <li>Pulse Event Medical Services Ni Ltd</li> <li>Ni Sports Medics Ltd</li> <li>St Johns Ambulance</li> <li>Emergency Medical Transfer Solutions Ltd</li> <li>Lynch Coach Hire &amp; Derg Taxis</li> <li>Two Trees Recovery Services</li> <li>Clanrye Cab Co</li> <li>Dc Taxis</li> <li>Mts Scotland Ltd</li> <li>Sb Taxis</li> <li>Taxiline Newry Ltd</li> </ul>																								

	Please see attached dataset for details of costs for each supplier. We are unable to provide costs on a supplier basis, therefore we have redacted supplier name.
4. Please can you give me a list of companies which the trust has been using for private ambulance services (both frontline and patient transport) which have either had their contracts cancelled or which have gone out of business since 2018.	No information found.

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](#)

**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)*

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**Information Governance Team**

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