



11 July 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 42830-25
Subject: Emergency Response Vehicles and Incidents
Date Received: 13/06/2025
Date of Monitoring: 17/06/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 13th June 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)
For each of the last ten years:	
1. How many ambulance vehicles are allocated to officers with Oscar call signs?	<p>Section 12 of the FOIA provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit. To provide a response would exceed the Freedom of Information Act 2000 appropriate fee limit of £450.00/18 hours.</p> <p>It is currently estimated that to locate, extract, retrieve and collate the information requested above would take more than 48 hours.</p> <p>The Trust can provide the following within the FOI fee limit:</p> <p>2020: 20 2025: 25</p> <p>As our system is a live system it doesn't have historical information on the fleet makeup in the past.</p>
2. How many emergency calls have they responded to?	Please see summary data attached.
3. How many of those are major incidents and	
4. how many calls which are not classified as major incidents.	



5. How much is the total cost of these cars – by initial purchase cost, maintenance, etc.	Refusal Notice – Section 43 (2) – Commercial Interests
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I can confirm that NIAS holds the information relevant to your request for Question 5 above. However, this information is exempt under Section 43 (2) (Commercial Interest) of the Freedom of Information Act. With (Section 43 (2)) being a prejudice based qualified exemption there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in the release of the information held as well as considering the public interest.

In determining whether or not the public interest in withholding information outweighs the public interest disclosing information, NIAS considered the factors favouring disclosure and the factors against disclosure. The application of the Public Interest Test is set out below.

Exemption claimed in respect of Section 43(2) Commercial Interest	
Considerations in Favour of Disclosing	Considerations in Favour of Not Disclosing
<p>Expenditure of public money requires openness, transparency and accountability.</p> <p>Disclosing information could feasibly aid the public in understanding the expenditure of public money for the receiver purpose.</p>	<p>The disclosure of the purchase cost of vehicles may prejudice the providers commercial interests as it would enable a member of the public or other companies to have a significant advantage in a similar procurement process. The procurement process is closed to the public and other competitors and is not in the public domain.</p>
<p>Promoting competition for public sector procurement processes. There is public interest in ensuring that there is competition for public sector procurement processes. Releasing information about rates may encourage more potential suppliers to enter the market. This could lead to improved numbers entering a procurement process.</p>	<p>Providing this information to the public and other competitors, would deter competition for a procurement process. There is a public interest in ensuring provider/companies can compete and there is fair competition.</p> <p>Disclosure of tendered vehicle pricing paid may prejudice this.</p> <p>Disclosure may restrict the number of providers willing to work with the public sector for fear of losing a competitive advantage if their pricing structures/costs are released to the wider public. This also has the potential to compromise the ability to achieve value for money for future procurement process.</p> <p>The trust between contractor and NIAS would likely be prejudiced.</p>

Balancing Test:

NIAS relies on good relations with all its contractors and to ensure value for money and fair competition. To release this information would severely impair these relationships and

the continued working relations which are key to keep NIAS fleet operational and supported throughout their life with the service.

We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

This section of the letter acts as a refusal notice in respect of question 5 under section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

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