



29 August 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 42878-25
Subject: DOAs drug related
Date Received: 20/06/2025
Date of Monitoring: 24/06/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 20th 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)
Q1. For the following years, please indicate how many people were pronounced dead following the arrival of an ambulance (Dead on Arrival)? 2025 (So Far) 2024 2023 2022 2021	* Please see attached summary data.
Q2. Of these people, how many deaths were attributed to drug related causes? 2025 (So Far) 2024 2023 2022 2021	
Q3. Of these people, how many deaths involved an opioid/opiate? 2025 (So Far) 2024 2023 2022 2021	



* The reason for the lower numbers is due to how the request has been asked and how we record the data. For example, the ~20,000 calls are ones that we have identified as DOA. When the call is DOA most of the information will be about the death and not necessarily about the cause in each case. Even less so if an Opiate was used.

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

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