



22 July 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 42999-25
Subject: Current state of extended reality (XR) in healthcare
Date Received: 10/07/2025
Date of Monitoring: 11/07/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 10 July 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) |
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| 1. Organisation's name | Northern Ireland Ambulance Service HSC Trust |
| 2. Under the Freedom of Information Act, will you be reporting the use, research, purchase, development, or otherwise of an XR technology within your organisation? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No, there are no XR products to report in my organisation | No |
| 3. Does your organisation have an established XR Technology Lab or Centre of Excellence for XR Technology? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Other | No |
| 4. Please select the type of organisation that you represent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Institution/ University • NHS Acute Trust (Hospital Trust) • NHS Mental Health Trust • NHS Ambulance Services Trust • NHS Community Health Trust | NHS Ambulance Services Trust / Health and Social Care Trust (NI) |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Foundation Trust • NHS Specialist/Integrated Trust • Health Board (Scotland/Wales) • Health and Social Care Trust (NI) • Other | |
| <p>5. Please select the nature of your organisation's involvement with XR health products (please select all that are applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are using free XR products • We are using XR products that we have purchased • We are researching XR products • We are developing XR products • Other | n/a |
| <p>6. Please state the name of the product(s)</p> | n/a |
| <p>7. Please provide a brief description of the product(s)</p> | n/a |
| <p>8. Please highlight any unique features of the product(s)</p> | n/a |
| <p>9. Please provide a link to the product website(s) if available</p> | n/a |
| <p>10. Please select the most relevant categories for the product(s) being developed or deployed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Wellbeing and Therapy • Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation • Pain Management • Clinical & Surgical • Patient Education and Training • Workforce Education and Training • Healthy Lifestyle and Fitness • Other | n/a |
| <p>11. Please select how these product(s) are being or will be adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free to patients/staff • Paid for by patients/staff • Free to NHS • Paid for by NHS • Unknown • Other | n/a |

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| <p>12. Please select the level of maturity of the product(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of concept • Minimum Viable Product • Early Adoption • Growing Integration • Established Practice • Unknown • Other | n/a |
| <p>13. Approximately what date/year was the XR product(s) first deployed within your organisation?</p> | n/a |
| <p>14. Where and/or in how many locations is the product(s) currently offered?</p> | n/a |
| <p>15. How is the product(s) currently distributed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home use by patients • Home use by staff • NHS site by patients • NHS site by staff • Unknown • Other | n/a |
| <p>16. Please select the hardware that is used in your organisation (select all that apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta Quest 2 • Meta Quest 3 • Meta Quest Pro • Pico 4 • Pico Neo 3 Pro / Eye • HTC Vive XR Elite • Lenovo ThinkReality XVR • Valve Index • Apple Vision Pro • HTC VivePro 2 • Pimax Crystal • Sony Playstation VR2 • Vive Focus 3 • Unknown • Other | n/a |
| <p>17. If your organisation is involved in the development of XR products, please select the development software that is used (please select all that apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity • Unreal Engine • Godot | n/a |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open XR • XR Interaction Toolkit • SteamVR Plugin • Meta XR SDK • Vive Wave SDK • Varjo SDK • WebXR • Mixed Reality Toolkit • Ultraleap Hand Tracking • Unknown • Other | |
| 18. Please provide details of external organisations such as development partners that are involved | n/a |
| 19. Please provide any further details | n/a |

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