



4 August 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 43019-25
Subject: Specialist and Support Services Agency Spend
Date Received: 15/07/2025
Date of Monitoring: 16/07/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 15th 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. The response has been provided by the Finance and Human Resource Directorates.

FOI QUESTION(S)	ANSWER(S)
Agency spend for temporary and permanent Specialist and Support Services staff in the last 12 months.	In our system, agency costs for specialist staff are combined with those for general and administrative staff. Disaggregating these values would result in an exempt response under section 12. As such, the total combined cost for specialist, general, administrative and support services agency staff is £1,785,965.
A Breakdown of spend by suppliers used for temporary and permanent Specialist and support agency staff in the last 12 months	s.12 exemption applied*.
Confirmation of the Framework you use for NMNC agency staff (eg PALS or NICS)	PALS HSC Agency Framework – Non-Medical Framework Ref: 3059470

* 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 to the questions identified above would exceed the Freedom of Information Act 2000 appropriate fee limit.

The Trust has estimated that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £450.00/18 hours. The appropriate limit has been specified in the FOI regulations. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is



therefore not obliged to comply with your request and we are unable to process your request further.

It is currently estimated that to locate, extract, retrieve and collate the information requested for question 2 above would take more than 48 hours.

This section of the letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000I 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](http://ico.org.uk)

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