

Email response: Air Pollution Exposure FOI 43176-25

Good afternoon

Thank you for your information request however I would advise that the NIAS is a pre-hospital organisation and therefore we do not operate an acute hospital service to the public in terms of hospital specialties and ward /associated treatments. This would fall under the remit of each individual Health & Social Care Trust operating within Northern Ireland as detailed below:

- Northern Health & Social Care Trust
- Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
- Western Health & Social Care Trust
- South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust • Southern Health & Social Care Trust

I would suggest you making contact with each of the FOI leads in the above Trust's (emails addresses will be available via their websites) and they should be able to assist you further.

The information requested is not held by the NIAS.

I'm writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following.

Please provide the following information, broken down by month, between January 2020 and July 2025 inclusive. If this is not possible, please instead provide it broken down by calendar year, 2020 to 2025 inclusive.

1. The number of times a patient was admitted where exposure to air pollution (International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) code Z581)* was recorded as a contributing factor to the admission.

(* I understand this is the code used by NHS trusts to log exposure to air pollution, but if your trust uses a different code or some other system, please still provide the relevant data)

1a. If possible, please tell me what the primary diagnosis was for each of these admissions. (For clarity, I want to know total numbers admitted with each primary diagnosis — for example, if 45 people were admitted with a primary diagnosis of asthma where exposure to air pollution was identified as a contributing factor.)

2. Please tell me how many of the patients in question 1 subsequently died in hospital.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you are able to supply some of this information more quickly than other items, please supply each item when you can rather than delay everything until it is all available.

If it is necessary for any reason to redact any information, please redact the minimum necessary and send me the rest of the material, explaining the legal grounds for each redaction.