



23 September 2025

Email:

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** 36324-25  
**Subject:** Paramedic MSK disorder/injury cost (£)  
**Date Received:** 03/03/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 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)
<p>1. The total annual cost (£) for the past 5 years of MSK disorders/injuries. Including / accounting for factors such as absence, rehabilitation, time, shift cover, delayed / missed appointments, etc, (anything that is recorded as contributing to the overall cost of MSK disorders / injuries to the NHS).</p>	<p>The information requested is not held in this format. The HR, Pay and Travel System (HRPTS) captures a level of information such as absence but does not include rehabilitation, time, shift cover, delayed / missed appointments.</p> <p>The MSK-related absence coding in HRPTS that the information has been pulled against are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Musculo-skeletal back</li> <li>- Musculo-skeletal neck</li> <li>- Musculo-skeletal joint / lower limbs</li> <li>- Breaks / fractures / sprains / pains</li> </ul> <p>The only information we can provide relates to the annual cost of absence occurrences associated to MSK disorders within the yearly periods provided and this has been detailed below.</p> <p>2020/21 = £668,830.41 2021/22 = £1,115,481.98 2022/23 = £989,250.99 2023/24 = £1,288,587.59 2024/25 = £611,410.47</p>



FOI QUESTION(S)	ANSWER(S)
2. The average cost (£) per case of MSK disorder / injury for the past 5 years. Including / accounting for the same factors as the above request.	As stated above the information is not held in this format. You could average the cost of the figures above, but this would not be a true representation of the average cost per case of MSK disorder / injury as it does not include all factors you have stated.
3. Financial cost of paramedic absences measured using FTE hours / days, caused by MSK disorders / injuries. Requesting this information for each of the past 5 years in the format of total cost per year, and average cost per absence.	<p>As stated above the information is not held in this format and no one recording system is capturing this information.</p> <p>To determine this cost would require the number of FTE hours or days lost by paramedics due to MSK disorders; the average hourly rate or daily wage of Paramedic including benefits and overheads to represent the cost of an FTE hour or day and the total number of individual absences caused by MSK disorders / injuries amongst Paramedics. HRPTS does not capture shift information. NIAS would hold the average hourly rate of a Paramedic and the absence information but not as calculation of all required information.</p>
4. Number of cases of MSK disorders or injuries/number of absences caused by MSK in your paramedic workforce for each of the past 5 years.	2020/21 = 136 2021/22 = 235 2022/23 = 250 2023/24 = 170 2024/25 = 124
5. Your paramedic employee count for each of the past 5 years.	2020/21 = 512 2021/22 = 538 2022/23 = 534 2023/24 = 516 2024/25 = 522

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.

If you require an internal review to be undertaken, please request this via the email address: [information.governance@nias.hscni.net](mailto:information.governance@nias.hscni.net)

Or submit via

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, 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](mailto: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)

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)*

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**Information Governance Team**