



16 October 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 44500-25
Subject: Adult End Of Life Patients
Date Received: 11/10/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 11th October 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)
In 2024 how many adult end of life (EOL) patients did the ambulance service attend.	Refusal Notice Section 22A Research Information*
How many adult EOL patients accessed your service more than once after being identified as EOL?	
How many of these adult EOL patients were conveyed to hospital?	
Do you have access to Palliative Care advice? If so, what hours and who can you speak to?	<p>Yes, NIAS has access to advice, depending on the geographical location, this service may be provided by either a Community Nurse, District Nurse or Marie Curie Nurse.</p> <p>HSC Trust area Operating times Contact details</p> <p>Belfast Trust 24/7 (Belfast (North & West), Belfast (South & East)) Northern Trust Monday – Friday: 1730–0800hrs Weekend: 24hrs Southern Trust Monday – Friday: 1800–0800hrs Weekend: 24hrs South East Trust 24/7 Western Trust Monday – Friday: 2200–0800hrs Weekend: 24hrs</p> <p>All services also offer full day / night cover on weekends and Bank Holidays.</p>



FOI QUESTION(S)	ANSWER(S)
What DNACPR forms does your service have access to?	At present the only DNACPR are hospital and community-based forms as there is no ADRT or ReSPECT or Power of Attorney for health and well-being in NI.
Are they in an electronic form for you to access?	With the introduction of Encompass across Northern Ireland work is ongoing to have an 'enduring DNACPR' on the electronic care record.
Is your ambulance service able where appropriate, to access anticipatory medications for dying patients. If so, how does this work?	In conjunction with the Health Trusts, 'Just In Case' medications are gradually rolling out through Northern Ireland. This is a specific box which is situated in the person's home/residence with instructions included for healthcare professionals to administer in accordance with a legally valid prescription or patient-specific direction.
Do you have a Paramedic EOL Lead?	No NIAS does not have this role in its structure at present. Members of our Urgent Care team do have End of Life care and associated pathways within their portfolios.
Do you have a Medical EOL Lead?	No, NIAS does not have this as a defined role, however, NIAS's Medical Director would fulfil aspects of this portfolio.
Do you have any local guidance about leaving dying patients at home or transferring to other services? Are you able to share this?	NIAS follow UK wide guidance for caring for people who are receiving palliative care / nearing the end of their life. This is contained within JRCALC and is copyright of Class Professional Publishing Ltd.
Are you able to convey dying patients to anywhere other than the emergency department.	We are able to support the scheduled transfers for palliative / End of Life patients to various locations other than emergency departments, including hospices.

FOI QUESTION(S)	ANSWER(S)
What training do you offer your paramedics and non-registered staff around palliative care and end of life care?	<p>Our Associate Ambulance Practitioner staff receive End of Life Care 4 hours face to face with self-directed study and e-learning required as per the FutureQuals Associate Ambulance Practitioner specification.</p> <p>Our Ambulance Care Assistant staff receive End of Life Care for 2 hours as per FutureQuals specification.</p> <p>Paramedic staff within Northern Ireland receive degree level education at Ulster University. Details of learning on these topics can be sourced from Ulster University.</p> <p>NIAS regularly organise / promote Continuous Personal Development events at Station level and HSC elearning.</p>
How often does this training occur?	Once per initial education programme. Continuous Personal Development at each Clinical Staff member's discretion.
In what format does this training occur?	A variety of all learning modalities are utilised across all education programmes. Blended format with face to face and virtual delivery.

*** Refusal Notice –Section 22A – Research Information**

I can confirm that NIAS holds the information relevant to your request for the first three questions above. However, this information is exempt under the qualified exemption Section 22A of the Freedom of Information Act. With Section 22A being a prejudice based qualified exemption there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not whether the information is held as well as considering the public interest.

In determining whether or not the public interest in withholding information outweighs the public interest disclosing information, NIAS considered the factors favouring disclosure and the factors against disclosure. The application of the Public Interest Test is set out below.

Exemption claimed in respect of Section 22A – Research Information	
Considerations in Favour of Disclosing	Considerations in Favour of Not Disclosing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Openness and transparency - Allowing the public to hold NIAS accountable. - Facilitate public scrutiny of the research itself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The research project is ongoing. - Disclosure could prejudice its future publication and the integrity of the research. - Participants and NIAS interests in the research project need protected. - Disclosure of the information means disclosure to the wider public and not just to you for personal use. - Impact on public trust and security.

Balancing Test

NIAS is currently conducting a research project covering the questions asked in this FOI. As outlined above disclosure could prejudice the publication of the research outcomes and undermine the integrity of the project. As NIAS needs to protect the interests of the organisation and the participants in the project we have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

Please note the data in question will be published in various forms and multiple locations in the near future once all funding conditions have been met.

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

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

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)

Information Governance Team

This response has been prepared for disclosure log publication. Only minor editorial or redaction amendments have been made for clarity and compliance with data protection legislation. The substantive content is identical to that provided to the requestor and the original issued version remains the authoritative record.