



Dear

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 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.

Kind regards

**Information Governance Officer | Northern Ireland Ambulance Service**

Site 30 | Knockbracken Healthcare Park | Saintfield Road | Belfast | Northern Ireland | BT8 8SG |

**Sent:** 27 January 2025 11:14

**To:** NIAS Information Governance <[information.governance@nias.hscni.net](mailto:information.governance@nias.hscni.net)>

**Subject:** FOI Request: Medical Equipment Management and Sustainability Practices

Dear all

To Whom It May Concern

I am contacting you on behalf of X as part of an initiative to explore and assess **sustainable practices within NHS trusts**. Our focus includes understanding procurement, inventory management, and disposal practices for medical equipment, with particular attention to environmental impact and sustainability efforts. We aim to compile this information for analysis and to promote awareness of sustainable healthcare practices.

Please find the details of our request below. We have provided structured response options where applicable to ensure consistency and ease of analysis.

For this request, "medical equipment" refers to any reusable or single-use tools, devices, or machinery utilized in patient care, diagnosis, treatment, or monitoring. This includes, but is not limited to, items such as surgical instruments, diagnostic devices (e.g., stethoscopes, ultrasound machines), monitoring equipment (e.g., ECG machines, blood pressure monitors), and imaging machines (e.g., MRI, X-ray, CT scanners).

I kindly request a response **within 20 working days** in line with the **FOI Act**. If you need any clarification or further details, please contact us.



## **SECTION 1: Hospital Demographics**

- Please indicate your trust/hospital type and type of care:
- Trust/Hospital Type:
  - Acute
  - Mental Health
  - Community
  - Ambulance
  - Other (please specify)
- Type of Care:
  - Secondary
  - Tertiary
  - Other (please specify)
- 1. **Total Number of Beds:** Please indicate the total number of inpatient beds in your hospital, including all types (e.g., general, ICU, maternity) if applicable.
- 2. **ICU/ITU Bed Count:** How many beds are designated for intensive or high-dependency care?
- 3. **Annual Admissions:** Please provide the total number of patient admissions in the last calendar year. If exact figures are unavailable, please provide your best estimate.

## **SECTION 2: Procurement and Inventory Management**

1. **Formal Procurement Policies:** Does your hospital have formal policies or guidelines for medical equipment procurement?
  - Yes (please provide a copy or summary)
  - No
2. **Designated Procurement Roles:** Is there a designated individual or team responsible for managing the procurement of medical equipment? **If yes**, please provide the role(s) and a brief description of responsibilities.
  - Yes – Individual
  - Yes – Team
  - No
3. **Inventory Review Frequency:** How often is your medical equipment inventory reviewed for excess or unused items?
  - Monthly
  - Quarterly
  - Biannually
  - Annually
  - Other (please specify)
4. **Primary Sources for Procurement:** What are the primary sources for your medical equipment procurement? Please indicate the proportion sourced from the NHS supply chain versus individual suppliers, and provide any additional details as applicable.



### **SECTION 3: Waste and Disposal**

1. **Excess/Expired Equipment:** What percentage of your medical equipment inventory was classified as excess, unused, or expired in the last 12 months? Please provide a breakdown by equipment type, if available.
2. **Disposal Responsibility:** Is there a specific role or department responsible for overseeing the disposal of medical equipment? **If yes**, please provide the role(s) and responsibilities.
  - Yes – Individual
  - Yes – Department
  - No
3. **Formal Disposal Policy:** Does your hospital have a formal policy for the disposal of medical equipment?
  - Yes (please provide a copy or summary of any policies)
  - No
4. **Types of Commonly Disposed Equipment:** Please specify the types of medical equipment most commonly disposed of due to expiry or non-use. Include examples and approximate percentages for each type, if possible.
  - Surgical instruments
  - Diagnostic devices
  - Monitoring equipment
  - Imaging equipment
  - Other (please specify)

### **SECTION 4: Sustainability and Environmental Impact**

1. **Sustainability Initiatives:** Does your hospital have a sustainability initiative for recycling, reuse, or redistribution of excess or unused medical equipment?
  - Yes (please provide details)
  - No
2. **Disposal of Excess or Expired Equipment:** How does your hospital manage the disposal of excess, expired, or damaged equipment? Please provide a breakdown by disposal method and indicate the approximate amount (in tonnes) used per year for each method. (Note: this information is for the year 2023)
  - Recycling
  - Donation
  - General waste
  - Other (please specify)



## **SECTION 5: Policies and Compliance**

1. **Compliance with Disposal Guidelines:** How does your hospital ensure compliance with national or NHS guidelines on the disposal and management of medical equipment?
  - Internal audits
  - External audits
  - Regular staff training
  - Other (please specify)
2. **Internal Audits of Equipment Management:** Has your hospital conducted internal audits within the last 12 months to assess the management of excess medical equipment?
  - Yes (**If yes**, please indicate the frequency of audits and any key findings, if available)
  - No

\*Please note that "medical equipment" refers to any reusable or single-use devices, tools, or apparatuses used in patient care, diagnosis, treatment, or monitoring. This includes, but is not limited to:

- **Surgical Instruments:** Reusable or disposable tools used in surgical procedures (e.g., scalpels, forceps, clamps).
- **Diagnostic Devices:** Equipment used in patient examination and diagnosis (e.g., stethoscopes, ultrasound devices, thermometers).
- **Monitoring Equipment:** Devices for tracking vital signs and other patient conditions (e.g., blood pressure monitors, ECG machines).
- **Imaging Equipment:** Larger equipment primarily for diagnostic imaging (e.g., X-ray machines, MRI machines, CT scanners).

**Other Equipment:** Any other reusable or single-use medical tools or devices regularly used within your hospital for patient care and which may have a designated lifecycle.

*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.*