



18 June 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 36270-25

Subject: Public access defibrillators (cPADs), GoodSAM integration, and public bleed kits within your ambulance service

Date Received: 20th February 2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 20th February 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)
1) Defibrillator Activation	
a) What is your standard process for activating a public access defibrillator (cPAD) when a 999 call reports a suspected cardiac arrest?	1a). The condition of the patient determines whether a caller or patient is sent to retrieve the nearest public access defibrillator or not. There are specific patient conditions that trigger the recommendation to get one in case NIAS need it later and then others that advise that someone on scene goes to get it now and let us know when they have it.
b) How is the location of the nearest defibrillator determined, and how is this information communicated to the caller or bystanders?	1b) The location of the nearest defibrillator is determined by our computer aided dispatch system (CAD) based on the location of defibrillator, provided by the owner, and uploaded onto the British Heart Foundation Database. On specific calls, the caller will be advised of the location of the defibrillator, how best to access it and how to open the case (including any codes etc). This information is provided over the phone, and we will offer to send it via text also.
c) What is the activation radius used to identify and recommend a defibrillator? Does this differ between urban and rural areas?	1c). Rural and urban radius is 500 metres.
2) Use of GoodSAM	
a) Does your service integrate GoodSAM responders into the emergency response process for suspected cardiac arrests?	2a). Yes, Good SAM responders will be alerted to cardiac arrests that do not present any scene safety concerns if within the set radius of the call.
b) When an activation occurs, does the system send an alert to all GoodSAM responders within the activation radius, or is there a selective process?	2b). The system will send an alert to the 5 closest GoodSAM responders. If none of them respond or are able to attend, the system will send to the next closest 5 until all responders have been informed or someone is able to attend.



c) If your service does not alert all available GoodSAM responders, are there any plans to expand this functionality in the future?	2c). N/A
3) Bleed Kit Activation & AACE Guidance	
a) Are public-access bleed control kits integrated into your 999 emergency response system?	3a). Not currently
b) If so, how does your service identify and activate a public bleed kit when responding to an incident involving severe bleeding?	3b). N/A
c) Does your service follow the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives (AACE) guidance on public bleed kits?	3c). N/A
d) Are there any plans to enhance public awareness or access to bleed kits in your region?	3d). No
If your service has internal policies, guidance documents, or standard operating procedures related to the activation of defibrillators, Good SAM responders, or public bleed kits, please provide copies or links to any publicly available versions.	There is information publicly accessible via the NIAS website – link provided below. GoodSAM Responders NIAS (hscni.net) Both South Central Ambulance Service and East England Ambulance Service also have published documents which may be of assistance.
If any part of this request exceeds cost limits or requires clarification, please let me know so I can refine the request accordingly.	n/a

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.

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](#)
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

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.