



28 March 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 36311-25
Subject: Instances of Sexual Assault on Frontline Operational Staff
Date Received: 27/02/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 27 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.

Question 1

In the last five calendar years (2020-2024), how many paramedics and ambulance staff have been sexually assaulted on duty? Can this be broken down by years (2020,2021,2022,2023,2024) and by assault type (i.e. sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, sexual assault, verbal abuse of a sexual nature, exposure, rape)

Question 1a

Of those, can you provide both, the number of assaults perpetrated by other staff members and the number perpetrated by a patient or other.

Answer 1 & 1a

The table below sets out the number of reported instances of sexual assault against NIAS staff in calendar years 2020 to 2024, broken down by perpetrator.

NIAS does not categorise reported instances of sexual assault in the manner requested, so it is not possible to provide this information:

Year	Patient/Visitor	Staff	Other	Total
2020	24	0	0	24
2021	43	0	0	43
2022	43	0	1	44
2023	46	0	0	46

Question 2

For the last year alone (2023/2024) - can you provide a breakdown of where instances of abuse/assault took place as well as a brief incident description.

Question 2a

Can you provide a breakdown of genders of both victims and alleged perpetrators. I hope the above fully assists you.

Answer 2 & 2a

Please see file entitled FOI 36311-3 which is a listed of anonymised reported incidents of sexual assault against NIAS staff in financial year 2023-24 with a brief description of the type of incident and the location.



The gender of victims/perpetrators is not consistently captured on NIAS's reporting system, so it is not possible to provide this information.

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](https://ico.org.uk)
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

Enc

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.