



19 June 2025

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 40804-25
Subject: Contracts for Firewall Anti-Virus
Date Received: 03/06/2025

Thank you for your request for information received on 3rd June 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>For each of the below areas, I kindly request the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is the existing supplier for this contract? 2. What is the annual spend for each contract? 3. What is the description of the services provided? 4. Primary Brand 5. What is the start date of the contract? 6. What is the expiry date of the contract? 7. What is the duration of the contract? 8. Who is the responsible contract officer? Please include at least their job title, and where possible, their name, contact number, and direct email address 9. How many licences/users are included? 	
<p>1. Standard Firewall (Network) Firewall services that protect the organisation's network from unauthorised access and other internet security threats.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Telefonica 2) £3238.45 3) Firewall 5) 16/11/2021 6) 16/11/2026 7) 5 years 8) Assistant Director of ICT, Tel: 02890 400999 9) 12x units



<p>2. Anti-virus Software Application</p> <p>Programs designed to prevent, detect, and remove viruses, malware, trojans, adware, and related threats.</p>	HSCNI Regional Contract
<p>3. Microsoft Enterprise Agreement</p> <p>A volume licensing agreement that may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft 365 (formerly Office 365): Office applications, Exchange, SharePoint, Teams, and more • Windows Enterprise: Operating system upgrades and enterprise management tools • Enterprise Mobility + Security (EMS): Tools for identity, access, and device security • Azure Services: Cloud infrastructure and platform services (committed or pay-as-you-go) 	HSCNI Regional Contract
<p>4. Microsoft Power BI and Copilot</p> <p>Or any alternative business intelligence platform that enables data connectivity, dashboards, and reporting.</p>	HSCNI Regional Contract

Refusal Notice – Answer 1 Part 4 (FOI exemption Section 31(a) – prevention or detection of crime)

I can confirm that NIAS holds the information relevant to your request for Question 1 part 4 above. However, this information is exempt under Section 31(a) – prevention or detection of crime of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. With Section 24 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 31(a) – prevention or detection of crime)	
Considerations in Favour of Disclosing	Considerations in Favour of Not Disclosing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Openness and transparency regarding the use of public monies and how NIAS protects its IT network capabilities. To confirm what processes we use to protect computer systems would enable the general public to hold NIAS to account ensuring all such breaches are recorded and investigated appropriately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extreme prejudice to the NIAS operations which would be caused by any malicious action taken against the NIAS IT systems if the information is provided on monitoring of web filtering - It could identify vulnerable computer systems thus allowing someone to compromise our systems, website and potentially allow access to personal data - Prejudice to the public of Northern Ireland which could result from this ie failure to deliver emergency service - Impact on public trust and security.

NIAS operates the majority of its services with a high dependency on IT to operate its Emergency and Non-Emergency Control Centres. An interruption of these systems, even for short period of maintenance, has considerable implications for the operation of responding to an emergency or transporting a patient. To identify any weaknesses in processes associated to information technology and security would risk undermining the integrity of NIAS information security. In

addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to this FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and will be published on the Trust website.

We have therefore concluded that the exemption applies and that withholding the material serves the public interest better than release in this instance.

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.