



3 March 2026

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 47286-26
Subject: Vehicle call signs
Date Received: 27/02/2026 22:44hrs

Thank you for your request for information received on Monday 3rd March 2026 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>I would like to request the different callsigns which are used by the service. E.g. W221</p> <p>Please also include the role of the callsign, E.g. W221 Emergency Ambulance</p> <p>Please also include the station which the callsign is attached to, E.g. W221 Emergency Ambulance Altnagelvin Ambulance Station</p>	<p>Call signs - Exemption claimed in respect of Section 24 (1) National Security</p>

NIAS are unable to provide the call signs and would apply the following exemption. This is a qualified exemption and therefore requires the undertaking of a Public Interest Test.

Exemption: The Public Interest Test

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 24 (1) National Security	
Considerations in Favour of Disclosing	Considerations in Favour of Not Disclosing
<p>To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent.</p>	<p>Releasing such information would give those individuals with the intent to do so the intelligence required to possibly disrupt the activity of NI Ambulance Service.</p> <p>This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target the service more effectively which may lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and therefore the potential danger to the public.</p>



	Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to maintain public safety therefore crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public and not in the public interest.
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Harm in providing the Information Held

To provide the call signs for specific vehicles could compromise national security. It may potentially interfere with emergency services that is provided to patients and service users. Knowing call signs, registration numbers and associated information for specific vehicles may allow individuals to access information which could lead to major disruption and therefore interfere with the smooth running of the vital service that NIAS provide.

Balancing Test

A disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a disclosure to the world at large, therefore information that is disclosed must be suitable to be disclosed to anyone. When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must consider the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure.

In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to protect the public and respond effectively to emergencies, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

The Information Commissioners Office confirm that they recognise that terrorists can be highly motivated and may go to great lengths to gather intelligence. This means there may be grounds for withholding seemingly harmless information on the basis that it may assist terrorists when pieced together with other information they may obtain.

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.