



13 March 2026

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 47287-26

Subject: Emergency Response Contractual Status St John Ambulance (N.I.)

Date Received: 27/02/2026 23:16hrs

Thank you for your request for information received on Monday 2nd 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)
1. Please confirm whether St John Ambulance (N.I.) currently holds any contract or other formal arrangement with NIAS to provide emergency ambulance response services on behalf of NIAS.	They are contracted by PALs under the Non-Emergency Ambulance Patient Transport Service to undertake non-emergency calls for NIAS. They are sent to calls that have been triaged and are appropriate for them.
2. Please confirm whether NIAS has issued any written authorisation, approval, or recognition permitting St John Ambulance (N.I.) vehicles to: 2.1 use blue warning beacons, 2.2 use audible warning devices (sirens), and 2.3 claim statutory road traffic exemptions (including but not limited to speed limit exemptions), when responding under emergency conditions.	No, NIAS have not authorised St John Ambulance to operate using points 2.1 to 2.3. They cannot activate blue lights or emergency sirens when completing a journey. Their Ambulance (Non-Emergency) must not be driven above the speed limit or deviate from normal road traffic laws. All NIAS requests for services will be non-emergency in nature, including if assisting the NIAS at an on-going incident.
3. If St John Ambulance (N.I.) vehicles are permitted to operate under emergency response conditions involving blue lights, sirens, and reliance on statutory exemptions, please confirm the legal or contractual basis upon which NIAS considers this to be authorised on behalf of NIAS.	They are not permitted to operate under emergency response conditions or authorised to do so on behalf of NIAS.
4. Please confirm whether NIAS considers St John Ambulance (N.I.) to be a provider “contracted to provide emergency ambulance provision to the NHS ambulance services” for the purposes of eligibility for the FAQ Level 3 Certificate in Emergency Response Ambulance Driving (RQF).	We can confirm that St John Ambulance are not contracted to provide emergency ambulance provision.



<p>Please provide copies of any current agreements or written policies relevant to the above.</p>	<p>As NIAS do not own the IAS contract we would direct you to PALS: Procurement and Logistics Service - Business Services Organisation (BSO) Website for any contract or policy information.</p>
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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.