



3 June 2026

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 49692-26

Subject: Future Planning, Review and Successor Arrangements for Non-Emergency Ambulance Transport Framework 4237048

Date Received: 13/05/2026

Thank you for your request for information received on 13th May 2026 which was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The 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)
Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following recorded information relating to the future procurement, replacement, redesign, renewal, review, or successor arrangements for the current Non-Emergency Ambulance Transport Framework (4237048), due to expire in 2027. This request seeks recorded information relating to the early strategic, procurement, commercial, governance, or planning stages of any future framework or replacement procurement arrangements. 1. Commencement of procurement or framework review activity Please confirm whether any work, planning activity, scoping exercise, procurement preparation, commercial review, lessons-learned exercise, market engagement, governance review, or framework redesign activity has commenced in relation to: - a replacement framework; - an extension; - a revised procurement model; or - any successor arrangements to Framework 4237048. If so, please provide:	In line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Section 1 FOIA applies only to information that a public authority already holds in recorded form at the time of a request. NIAS does not hold the information requested. NIAS would suggest contacting the Business Services Organisation (BSO) Procurement and logistic Services (PaLs) as they are responsible for the framework agreement. A link to the website has been provided Freedom of Information - Business Services Organisation (BSO) Website.



- the date such activity commenced; - the nature of the activity; - the organisation(s), directorate(s), or individual role(s) responsible; - and the governance or reporting structure under which such work is being undertaken. 2. Purpose and strategic intent of the framework Please provide any recorded information explaining: - what the current Non-Emergency Ambulance Transport Framework was designed or intended to achieve; - the original operational, commercial, procurement, or service problem statement which justified establishment of the framework; - and any recorded information describing the intended strategic purpose of the framework within the wider HSCNI ambulance and patient transport system. 3. Procurement model and framework structure Please provide any recorded information explaining: - why a framework procurement model was selected; - why a multi-provider structure was adopted; - whether alternative procurement models or structures were considered; - and the rationale for the procurement structure ultimately adopted. 4. Evaluation methodology and weighting rationale Please provide any recorded information explaining: - the rationale for the evaluation methodology adopted within Framework 4237048; - the rationale for the weighting applied between price and non-price criteria; - and any recorded information describing why the final weighting structure was considered appropriate for a patient-facing ambulance transport service. 5. Lessons learned, review, or reassessment activity Please provide any recorded information relating to:	
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- lessons learned exercises; - framework review activity; - operational reassessment; - governance review; - commercial review; - or consideration of changes for any future framework or successor arrangements. 6. Audit Office recommendations Please confirm whether any work relating to a future framework or successor arrangements has considered or incorporated Recommendations 2 and/or 3 from the Northern Ireland Audit Office report “Ambulance Handovers in Northern Ireland” (March 2025), including any recorded information relating to: - oversight; - governance; - regulation; - value for money; - sustainability; - service quality; - workforce competence; - auditability; - or framework assurance. For clarity, this request seeks recorded information only, including but not limited to: - briefing papers; - scoping documents; - business cases; - governance papers; - meeting minutes; - presentations; - internal correspondence; - procurement planning documents;	
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- review documents; - commercial analysis; - or strategy papers.	
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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](http://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)

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.