



9 June 2026

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 47306-26

Subject: Software based Data Erasure of End of Life IT Equipment

Date Received: 04/03/2026

Thank you for your request for information received on 8th April 2026 following the release of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service response to you on 24th March 2026. Your subsequent request was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust would fully apologise for the delay in the provision of the below response.

QUESTION

Thank you for your response.

From your reply, I understand that:

- a. Your organisation relies on certificates, erasure reports, or system confirmations as evidence that a data erasure or sanitisation process has been completed.
- b. These documents do not constitute an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee that personal data on each specific storage device has been rendered irrecoverable as a final data state.
- c. Your organisation does not hold any additional device specific verification, testing, or validation demonstrating that data on the storage media is irrecoverable in practice.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide any recorded information held by your organisation that sets out, explains, or documents the organisation's basis for determining that this approach satisfies the requirements of:

- Article 5(1) UK GDPR
- Article 5(2) UK GDPR
- Article 24 UK GDPR
- Article 32 UK GDPR

This request is for recorded information only. Examples include internal policies, risk assessments, governance papers, DPIAs, information governance meeting minutes, or any documentation that records the organisation's rationale for concluding that compliance is achieved in circumstances where no outcome based evidence of irrecoverability is held. Any sensitive information may be redacted.

If no such recorded information exists, please confirm this.



ANSWER

Under Section 1 of the FOI Act, we can confirm that NIAS do not hold records documenting the rationale for concluding that compliance is achieved in circumstances where no outcome based evidence of irrecoverability is held. Assurance is based upon the contract framework (CFT438385). A link to the framework has previously been provided. The framework is used regionally by all Health & Social Care organisations in Northern Ireland.

Attached is the template document used to itemise equipment identified for wiping/shredding and which is provided to the supplier for the provision of a quotation. Once a supplier is confirmed for use and equipment has gone through the appropriate wiping/shredding process using specified technologies, the attached document is completed by the supplier confirming date of collection and date of wiping/shredding and confirmation is received via email from the supplier. In line with the framework no further evidence-based assurance is required.

The Department of Finance is identified as the Data Controller, NIAS would suggest making contact DOF regarding any Data Protection Impact assessment/risk assessment documentation and/or framework information: dataprotectionofficer@finance-ni.gov.uk

I hope the above fully assists you.

If you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your 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.