



24 March 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 4th 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) Whether your organisation's policies, contractual terms, or internal procedures require an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee that personal data on a specific storage device has been rendered irrecoverable as a final data state following software based erasure.	NIAS adhere to the following government process for all disposal of end of life IT equipment and data erasure: Framework for Disposal Services for IT Equipment, Electronic and Electrical Equipment Department of Finance The CESG assurance for this protocol is: CESG Information Assurance Standard.pdf
2) Where software based erasure of storage media is undertaken internally, what recorded evidential assurance is relied upon to conclude that the final data state of the specific storage device is irrecoverable, as distinct from confirmation that an erasure process was executed.	Not applicable.
3) Where software based erasure is undertaken by a third party provider: a. Do the certificates or contractual documents held constitute an explicit outcome based warranty or guarantee of irrecoverability for each specific storage device processed? b. Beyond reliance on supplier accreditation or recognised standards including but not limited to ADISA certification, ISO accreditation, NIST alignment, HMG IA standards, NHS Digital guidance, or Data Security and Protection Toolkit assertions, and beyond confirmation that a wiping process was completed, does the organisation hold any recorded, device specific documentation evidencing	NIAS requires both wiping and shredding on devices even if we are unsure if the device works. The supplier issues NIAS a certificate of destruction. The below is how they wipe and shred: - Any data bearing assets available for remarketing have been data sanitised using Blancco Drive Erasure. (where applicable) - Any non-working/non-marketable data bearing assets have had the drives removed for shredding to pieces no larger than 20mm.



independent verification, testing, or validation that the data on the storage media has been rendered irrecoverable in practice?	• Any loose media is shredded to pieces no larger than 20mm..
4) If no explicit outcome based warranty or device specific outcome evidence is held beyond certification, accreditation, or confirmation of process completion, please confirm what recorded form of evidential assurance is relied upon when concluding that personal data has been rendered irrecoverable.	Not applicable.

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.