



13 May 2026

Email:

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: 47501-26

Subject: Paramedic Recruitment and Private Ambulance Usage

Date Received: 08/04/2026

Thank you for your request for information received on 8 April 2026 and subsequent clarification received on 10 and 11 April 2026. Your request 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.

Question

I would like to request the following information for the last five financial years, with each year presented separately.

1a. The total number of applicants for paramedic roles.

Answer

Please refer to the table below: data extracted from Human Resource, Payroll and Travel system (HRPTS) as at 23/04/2026, please further note the below figures relate to recruitment done via Health Social Care recruit (HSC) and does not include internal recruitment via EOI's etc.

Post	20/21 Applicants	21/22 Applicants	22/23 Applicants	23/24 Applicants	24/25 Applicants
Advanced Paramedic - Critical Care		36		53	
Advanced Paramedic Urgent Care					54
BSc Hons Degree- Paramedic Science		23	54		64
Clinical Education and Standards Manager			14		
Clinical Pathways Lead (Urgent Care)		11			
Clinical Practice Lead		16	12		
Clinical Support Manager			9		26
Clinical Support Officer	<5			158	55



Clinical Training Officer	5	11		12	
Community Resuscitation Education Officer				50	
Consultant Paramedic - Clinical Education and Standards			7		
Consultant Paramedic (Urgent Care)					<5
Consultant Paramedic Advanced Practice					8
Emergency Planning Officer	6				
EPRR Officer					19
EPRR Support					11
EPRR Training					5
HART Paramedic				62	
HART Team Leader	5				
HCPC Qualified Paramedic	<5	<5	26	24	45
HCPC Registered Paramedic (BANK)	<5				
Head of EPRR					9
HEMS Operational Support Officer	<5				
HEMS Paramedic	39				
ICH Paramedic	16	13	6	16	83
Newly Qualified HCPC Registered Paramedic				83	69
Newly Qualified Paramedic (NQP)		32	<5		
Practice Education Lead			56		
Research & Development Manager					<5
Research and Development Paramedic				13	
Station Officer	<5		69	69	
Student Paramedic	122	147			

Question

1b. Where recorded, the number of applicants identified as Newly Qualified Paramedics (NQPs).

Answer

2020/2021	-	0
2021/2022	-	32
2022/2023	-	<5
2023/2024	-	83
2024/2025	-	69

Question

1c. The total number of applicants who were unsuccessful.

Answer

Please refer to the table below: The data below displays those who applied and were not shortlisted for interview or who attended interview and were not successful. This may include applicants who withdrew from the process at their own decision. Data extracted from HRPTS as at 23/04/2026.

Post	20/21 Did Not Receive an Offer	21/22 Did Not Receive an Offer	22/23 Did Not Receive an Offer	23/24 Did Not Receive an Offer	24/25 Did Not Receive an Offer
Advanced Paramedic - Critical Care		36		52	
Advanced Paramedic Urgent Care					54
BSc Hons Degree- Paramedic Science		17	51		64
Clinical Education and Standards Manager			13		
Clinical Pathways Lead (Urgent Care)		10			
Clinical Practice Lead		15	12		
Clinical Support Manager			9		25
Clinical Support Officer	<5			158	54
Clinical Training Officer	<5	9			
Community Resuscitation Education Officer				50	
Consultant Paramedic				5	
Consultant Paramedic (Urgent Care)					<5
Consultant Paramedic Advanced Practice					7
Emergency Planning Officer	5				
EPRR Officer					17
EPRR Support					10
EPRR Training					<5
HART Paramedic				62	
HART Team Leader	<5				
HCPC Qualified Paramedic		<5	26	24	43
HCPC Registered Paramedic (BANK)					
Head of EPRR					8
HEMS Operational Support Officer					
HEMS Paramedic	38				
ICH Paramedic	12	12	6	16	<5
Newly Qualified HCPC Registered Paramedic				83	68
Newly Qualified Paramedic (NQP)		32			
Practice Education Lead			56		
Research & Development Manager					

Research and Development Paramedic			13
Station Officer		69	69
Student Paramedic	121	144	

The Trust has a duty to protect individual confidentiality, in line with this duty the figure <5 has been provided where the figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has considered the roles in which the figures relate to. In addition, the Trust has considered the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and will be published on the Trust website.

Question

- 2a. The total number of shifts above covered by private ambulance providers in support of frontline operations, excluding Patient Transport Services (PTS).
- 2b. The total annual spend on private ambulance services, and the equivalent number of paramedics this would represent.

Answer

Please refer to the table below: please note that NIAS only commenced recording shift data from the beginning of 2024.

For AE / Unscheduled Care			
Year	Shifts	Cost	No Paramedics
2021-22	NA	2,911,457	51
2022-23	NA	3,021,321	51
2023-24	NA	3,602,440	58
2024-25	8,446	5,350,052	79
2025-26	8,073	4,413,087	63

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.