



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: AD-IG-01(2)-58-2017
Key Word: Ambulance Activity
Subject: Ambulance Activity
Request: **Date Received:** 05/05/2017
Monitoring Date: 08/05/2017
Date of Response: 25/05/2017

Thank you for your request for information received on 5 May 2017 and which was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. We would also inform you that Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) Health and Social Care Trust has now completed its search for the information you requested and which is detailed below and attached for your attention.

Question 1

Raw daily dataset of Cat A response across Northern Ireland to include category, date of incident, primary care Trust, postcode district, chief complaint group and best response time for the period of 01/04/2015 to 31/03/2017.

Answer 1

The requested information has been attached in the Excel Spreadsheet labelled FOI_58_Ans1. I would further provide the following in relation to what is in the dataset:

- Cat A responses based on best response time ie the first response on scene that achieved the best response time. Please note that multiple resources may attend scenes, however, this is not in this data;
- We have provided actual date of incident, time 999 call received ie from clock start, month, year etc
- Primary Care Trust area the incident occurred in;
- Postcode district base based on first half of post ie BT16;
- Chief Complaint of incident;

Please further note that a number of records provided have a best response time of 00:00:00hours and I would advise that this is due to the performance measurement aspect in place. The performance time for an ambulance is not calculated until "confirm location of patient" and "Chief Complaint/"What is Wrong" has been received from the emergency caller.

When a 999 call is received, a dispatcher is also monitoring the call and information being provided and when an address is given and not yet confirmed, an ambulance response may already have been allocated and which can lead to the 00:00:00hours occurring on a small number of records provided.



In relation to the current performance target for Category A calls, I would confirm the following:

Category A – Performance 2016/17

From April 2016, the HSC Board and NIAS should ensure an average of 72.5% of Category A (potentially immediately life-threatening) calls are responded to within 8 minutes (and not less than 67.5% in any LCG area)

Category A – Performance 2015/16

From April 2016, the HSC Board and NIAS should ensure an average of 72.5% of Category A (potentially life-threatening) calls are responded to within 8 minutes (and not less than 67.5% in any LCG area)

Please further note that data errors may also be evident with the information provided due to the volume of records sourced.

Question 2

Location of the existing Ambulance Stations and emergency department?

Answer 2

Please find attached in Excel spreadsheet format:

- FOI_58_Ans 2_AmbStns which contains a list of ambulance stations and deployment points across Northern Ireland along with address and X/Y co-ordinates
- FOI_58_Ans2_EDs which contains a list of Emergency Department across Northern Ireland broken down by Type 1, 2 and 3 Hospitals with address locations also provided.

Question 3

The number of ambulances at each Ambulance Stations?

Answer 3

Please find attached FOI_58_Ans3_Fleet which is a profile of all ambulance fleet broken down by Station. In terms of responding to Cat A activity it would be an A&E ambulance or RRV vehicle would be responding to same. **Please further note that all these vehicles will not be on duty at the same time, this is the number of ambulance fleet at each stations.**

I hope the above and attached fully assists you. 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.

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.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Finance and ICT Director, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) HSC Trust, Site 30, Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 8SG.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, 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:

Website: ni@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)

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion. Please be advised that NIAS replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ <http://www.niamb.co.uk>. Personal details in respect of your request will have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Yours sincerely

Alison Vitty

Alison Vitty (Miss)
CORPORATE MANAGER