



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-57-2017  
**Key Word:** Belfast Division  
**Subject:** Ambulance Cover  
**Request:**      **Date Received:** 01/05/2017  
                         **Monitoring Date:** 02/05/2017  
                         **Date of Response:** 05/06/2017

Thank you for your request for information received on 1 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.

NIAS would further apologise for the delay in the provision of the information and would thank you for your patience with this.

Please provide figures and statistics for ambulance cover over:

14-17 March 2017  
14 April-21 April 2017

**Belfast Division**

Ardoyne/Purdysburn/The Bridge/Broadway Ambulance Stations

**Question 1**

How many ambulance staff were off on sick absence during these periods (separate out for dates above)

**Question 2**

What grade were they

**Question 3**

Which station - may be a table giving stations and absentee numbers and grade with dates

**Question 4**

How many ambulances or shifts were cancelled due to sickness, on each station, advise which stations

**Answer 1 to 4**

Please find detailed below by each date requested above and specific Belfast stations the number of staff associated with sickness absence that would be on an Accident and Emergency (A&E) vehicle or RRV vehicle. Please note that we have not provided the grade of the staff, as on a number of the days have only one staff member absent and only one staff member operates on a RRV vehicle. To release same would breach the confidentiality owed to the staff and the Data Protection. The Trust have therefore provided totals only. We have further detailed if the absent caused a vehicle to be dropped due to the absence. It should further be noted that it could be the same staff that are absent due to long term sick etc for a number of the stations. Alternatively it could be separate sickness absence by individual staff.



**14/03/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	4
Broadway	2
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

*NO A&E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 14/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS  
NO RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 14/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS*

**15/03/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	4
Broadway	2
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>

*NO A&E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 15/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS  
NO RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 15/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS*

**16/03/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	5
Broadway	2
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

*NO A&E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 16/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS  
1 RRV WAS DROPPED ON 16/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS*

**17/03/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	5
Broadway	1
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>

*NO A&E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 17/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS  
1 RRV WAS DROPPED ON 17/03/17 DUE TO SICKNESS*

**14/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	2
Broadway	1
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>

*1 x A&E NIGHTSHIFT DROPPED ON 14/04/2017  
1 RRV WAS DROPPED ON 14/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS*

**15/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	3
Broadway	2
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>NO A&amp;E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 15/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS 3 x RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 15/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**16/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	3
Broadway	2
The Bridge	1
Purdysburn	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>NO A&amp;E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 16/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS 3 x RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 16/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**17/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	2
Broadway	1
The Bridge	1
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>
<i>NO A&amp;E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 17/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS NO RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 17/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**18/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	3
Broadway	1
The Bridge	2
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>NO A&amp;E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 18/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS 2 RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 18/4/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**19/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	3
Broadway	2
The Bridge	1
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>NO A&amp;E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 19/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS 1 RRV WAS DROPPED ON 19/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**20/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	3
Broadway	2
The Bridge	1
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>1 x A&amp;E DAYSHIFT DROPPED ON 20/04/2017 NO RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 20/4/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**21/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>Total Absent ie Paramedic or EMT</b>
Ardoyne	4
Broadway	3
The Bridge	1
Purdysburn	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>NO A&amp;E SHIFTS WERE DROPPED ON 20/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS NO RRVs WERE DROPPED ON 21/04/17 DUE TO SICKNESS</i>	

**Question 5**

How many A&E ambulances and other ambulances, patient transport etc were short over these times in the Belfast Division stations

**Answer 5**

We have attached the planned shift patterns by day for each station in the Belfast Division broken down by A&E and RRV so that you can see what we planned to delivered. This is attached as FOI\_57\_Ans3. The information we have provided above shows when this was not achieved and a shift was dropped.

In relation to Patient Care Service shifts that we dropped during the same period, please see below. This relates to Ambulance Care Attendant staff that drive Intermediate Care vehicles or sitting case vehicles that can undertake inter-hospital transfers, discharges, outpatient appointments etc

**15/03/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Ardoyne	1 x 0900 to 1700hours

**16/03/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Bridge End	1 x 0900 to 1700hours

**14/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Ardoyne	1 x 0900 to 1700hours

**18/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Broadway	1 x 1100 to 2200hours

**19/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Ardoyne	1 x 0900 to 1700hours
Broadway	1 x 0800 to 2000hours 1 x 2000 to 0800hours

**20/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Broadway	1 x 2000 to 2200hours

**21/04/2017**

<b>Station</b>	<b>PCS Shifts Dropped</b>
Ardoyne	2 x 0900 to 1700hours
Broadway	1 x 0800 to 2000hours

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](mailto: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 faithfully

***Alison Vitty***

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**Alison Vitty (Miss)**  
**CORPORATE MANAGER**