



11 April 2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: AD-IG-01(2)-2016-38
Key Word: Attacks on Ambulance Vehicles
Subject: Attacks on Ambulance Vehicles
Request: **Date Received:** 23/03/2016
Monitoring Date: 24/03/2016
Date of Response: 11/04/2016

Thank you for your request for information received on 23 March 2016 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 for your attention.

Question 1

Annual numbers of attacks on emergency vehicles from 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015.

Answer 1

This data has been sourced from the Trust's Untoward Incident reporting system ie completion of Untoward Incident reports when an incident has occurred

<u>2010/11</u>	<u>2011/12</u>	<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
0	0	1	0	0

Please note that we may be under-reporting this activity due to how the records are classified. For example, equipment in a vehicle could be damaged due to an attack on ambulance staff and the vehicle/equipment, however the classification of the record will be an assault.

Question 2

The dates (month/year) and locations of these attacks by street or postcode. If this is not possible, then I would appreciate if you could please provide the most detailed geographical information that can be provided (e.g. village, town, area of city).

Answer 2

The incident in 2012/13 occurred on 9 November 2013 in the Newry area. While dealing with a patient who was reluctant to travel, the vehicle was struck with a bottle from behind a wall.

Question 3

The number of instances per year for the period of 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015 in which attacks have prevented emergency vehicles from accessing patients, and the dates and locations (as above) of these incidents.



Answer 3

The Trust would not hold data in this format that you have requested. Information is received in real time when responding to a call that will advise a crew to wait for PSNI due to a particular issue e.g male patient with knife etc. If information is recorded in Command and Control records these would be free-text that would be entered in many different ways and would not be extractable without reading every single call and interpreting same.

Question 4

On the NIAS website, In FOI ref 2-15 'Police Protection/Potential No Go Zones', the response to the FOI request states: 'There will be a small number of occasions when due to civil disturbance in some areas, that an ambulance will be asked to remain in a close proximity location behind a police line and patients are brought out to them or the crew goes in to treat the patient with police assistance. For example if a riot was taking place.' Can you please provide the dates (month/year) and locations (street/postcode if possible) of occasions on which this has occurred in the period 01/01/2012 to 31/12/2015.

Answer 4

The Trust does not hold information in the format you have requested. We are aware that during periods such as the 11/12th July or St Patricks Day etc that large numbers of persons may be areas due to celebrations etc or Police presence is already in area due to other issues. We would be co-operating with PSNI in terms of access for safety etc For example, 12 July 2013 in the area of Woodvale/Twaddell, Belfast this would have occurred. If information is recorded in Command and Control records these would be free-text that would be entered in many different ways and would not be extractable without reading every single call and interpreting same.

I hope the above 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