



### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-2016-117  
**Key Word:** Staff Compliments  
**Subject:** Staff Compliments

**Request:**           **Date Received:**           29/09/2016  
                          **Monitoring Date:**         30/09/2016  
                          **Date of Response:**       26/10/2016

Thank you for your request for information received on 30 September 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**

I would like to know how many times in each of the past five years the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service fell short of a full staff compliment.

#### **Question 2**

If you can also detail reasons for falling short of staff compliment and outline the recommended staffing levels for a given day.

#### **Question 3**

Can you also detail the worst five cases of staff shortages in the past year eg: Cases when there were fewest staff on, the exact dates and reasons why service was stretched.

#### **Answer 1 – 3 Refusal Notice**

I can confirm that the Trust holds information that falls within the description of your requests.

However, I have estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider your request. In line with Regulation 5 of the Fees Regulations, we have aggregated the costs of providing the information to you. The appropriate limit is specified in Regulations and for the Trust is set at £450.00/18hours. This represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days in determining whether the Trust hold the information, locate it, retrieve it and extract it. Consequently the Trust is not obliged under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act to respond to your request. It is estimated it would cost over £4625/185hours to comply with your request and we will not be processing your request further. The records are held in an electronic system but each station has been reviewed by each day, month etc and then collate the information.



If you narrow the scope of your request the Trust may be able to provide the information free of charge because it would cost less than the appropriate limit to do so, although I cannot guarantee that this will be the case. For instance if you asked for a shorter timeframe for the information we may be able to facilitate same.

However, please note that any re-formulated request I receive will be treated as a fresh request.

*Please note that whilst not required to (as the request has exceeded the appropriate limit) we have provided answers to Question 4 and 5 to assist you.*

**Question 4**

If you can also confirm how many staff are employed within the NI Ambulance Service in the various sectors including ambulance drivers and paramedics.

**Answer 4**

NIAS Corporate Workforce Information Report is produced retrospectively on a quarterly basis and on a monthly basis for operational frontline staff.

The most recent verified position for frontline staff is as at 31 August 2016.

The most recent verified position for all other staff is as at 31 December 2015.

Table 4(a) below shows the numbers of frontline staff by Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) by grade as at 31 August 2016, and includes permanent and temporary contracts:

<b>TABLE 4(a)</b>	
<b>Post</b>	<b>WTE IN POST</b>
Ambulance Service Area Manager	5.00
Station Officer	10.00
S/Supervisor Paramedic	19.89
S/Supervisor EMT	4.00
Paramedic	313.05
RRV Paramedic	85.14
EMT	240.01
EMT (Trainee)	0.00
PCS Manager	0.00
PCS Supervisor	1.00
ACA	258.15
ACA (Trainee)	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>936.24</b>

Table 4(b) below shows the numbers of all other staff by Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) by grade as at 31 December 2015, and includes permanent and temporary contracts:

<b>TABLE 4(b)</b>	
<b>Post</b>	<b>WTE IN POST</b>
Chief Executive / Board	7.00
Executive Director	4.00
Senior Manager (Band 8+)	11.60
Admin & Clerical (Band 2 – 7)	65.97
Maintenance	3.00
Ancillary & General	1.00
Ambulance Officer (Band 6)	29.00
Ambulance Officer (Band 7)	10.00
Control (Band 2 – 7)	118.76
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250.33</b>

**Question 5**

Can you also tell me how many vehicles are owned by the NI Ambulance Service and a breakdown of ambulances, car ambulances etc.

**Answer 5**

The number of vehicles NIAS own can change on a regular basis with new vehicles coming in and old vehicles going out, in addition extra vehicles can be required for special events and where temporary posts require the use of a vehicle. The table below contains a breakdown of the NIAS established fleet excluding any temporary increases.

<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>Established fleet at 10/10/16</b>
A&E Ambulance	116
Patient Care Service Ambulance	107
Rapid Response vehicles	42
Emergency Planning (inc Hart)	17
Divisional Management	16
Regional Management (inc Doctors)	3
Training	7
Support fleet (education/Stores & Fleet)	7
<b>Total Established fleet</b>	<b>315</b>

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](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 sincerely

***Alison Vitty***

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