



3 April 2015

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-2015-32

**Key Word:** NIAS IPAD

**Subject:** NIAS IPAD

**Request:** **Date Received:** 12/03/2015 **Response Date:** 03/04/2015

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 March 2015 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.

**Question 1**

Number of I-pads purchased by NIAS Trust and associated costs/maintenance costs/network provision costs.

**Question 2**

Cost of installation for wifi provision at NIAS HQ building.

**Answer 1 and 2**

There were 50 iPads purchased in 2013/14. The breakdown of costs is included in the table below

	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>
I-pads	£36,980.40	Capital one off cost
Wi-Fi set up costs	£40,584.33	Capital one off cost
Ipad network charges	£7,200	Recurring Revenue – annual cost

Note Wi-Fi was installed both at NIAS Headquarters and Western Division Headquarters.

**Question 3**

Number of staff allocated an Ipad and what the eligibility criteria is for same.

**Answer 3**

The business case for Wireless Network and 50 iPads details the basis of allocation of these iPad. An extract of the approval is detailed below:

*“The Business Case also makes the case for the purchase of 50 iPads for the NIAS Trust for business purposes.*

1. *11 iPads and cases for NIAS Board members to be used for the purposes of monthly Board meetings in the first instance.*
2. *33 iPads and cases for NIAS senior managers to be used to access corporate information and files securely while away from the office for the purpose of improving/monitoring performance and improving individual productivity.*
3. *6 iPads and cases for the NIAS ICT team to evaluate other office productivity applications with the potential to improve NIAS business processes.”*



50 iPad were allocated on this basis.

**Question 4**

What is the rationale/business case for Ipad usage.

**Answer 4**

The business case for the purchase of I pads outlined the following benefits:

- Encourage mobile working.
- Migrate from paper based practices to technology based working therefore reducing associated printing costs.
- Increased productivity, innovation and mobility

Project Objectives are included in the business cases and an extract is included in the table below:

<b><i>Project Objectives</i></b>
<i>1. Ensure continuity of network provision to mobile users in meetings and away from their desks. Enhancing the current network infrastructure to support the introduction of Wi-Fi devices (iPad) whilst ensuring there is an appropriate foundation for future change and growth.</i>
<i>2. Support service improvements, complying with HSC strategic direction and meeting reasonable future demands of an increasing mobile workforce.</i>
<i>3. Protect the security and confidentiality of patient/client information by providing a network that provides communication equipment that will enable managed robust security protection and ensure that data is easily available to only the people allowed access.</i>

**Question 5**

Did SEMT consider how operational staff may view such luxuries given the current financial climate and poor state of various NIAS stations throughout the province.

**Answer 5**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 relates to information that we hold. The right only covers recorded information which includes information held on computers, in emails and in printed or handwritten documents as well as images, video and audio recordings. While a request can be in the form of question, rather than a request for specific document, the Trust does not have to answer the question if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgement that is not already recorded.

However, we can advise that the Trust successfully bid for funds which could only be used for IT Equipment to secure these iPads. The reasons for introducing such business tools are clearly set out in the rationale above.

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.

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:** [www.informationcommissioner.co.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.co.uk)

**Phone:** 0303 123 1114 **Email:** [ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk)

**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 12 Cromac Place, Gasworks, Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 2JB

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**