



28 April 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: AD-IG-01(2)-2015-43
Key Word: Suspensions
Subject: Staff
Request: **Date Received:** 23/03/2015
Monitoring Date: 24/03/2015
Date of Response: 28/04/2015

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

I would further apologise for the slight delay in the provision of the information and for your patience with this.

Question 1

How many suspensions of ambulance officers within your service commenced in the past five financial years (overall total); 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015?

Answer 1

In the past five financial years, 18 Ambulance Officers have been suspended from duty as a precautionary measure. This figure does not include admin & clerical staff.

Question 2

How many were suspended on full pay in the past five years?

Answer 2

In the past five financial years, 18 Ambulance Officers have been suspended from duty on full pay as a precautionary measure.

Question 3

How many are currently suspended on full pay?

Answer 3

Currently, 3 Ambulance Officers are suspended from duty on full pay as a precautionary measure.

Question 4

How much has the suspension of ambulance officers cost your service in the past five financial years/past financial year (eg cost to organisation and salaries)?

Answer 4



The salary cost of suspensions of Ambulance Officers which have commenced in 2010/11 until 2014/15 was £309k. We do not hold any organisational costs associated with these suspensions.

Question 5

Since April 2010 to date, what is the longest period any ambulance officer (including rank) has been suspended for?

Answer 5

Since April 2010, the longest period of suspension of an Ambulance Officer within the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service has been 1 year 7 months. This employee is of a Band 4 rank.

Question 6

Of those suspended at the moment, what is the longest period any ambulance officer (including rank) has been suspended for?

Answer 6

Of those currently suspended from duty as a precautionary measure, the longest period of suspension is 1 year 7 months. This employee is of Band 4 rank.

Question 7

What type of allegation (misconduct, assault, etc.,) have ambulance officers been suspended over (breakdown of number of officers for each offence)?

Answer 7

Since April 2010 to 31 March 2015 employees have been suspended for allegations as follows:

8 x Negligence

1 x Failure to comply with responsibilities and duties of employment position

4 x Inappropriate behaviour

5 x Criminal conduct

Question 8

How many ambulance officers suspended during the five years resigned before disciplinary proceedings?

Answer 8

No employees suspended resigned prior to disciplinary proceedings.

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: ni@ico.org.uk

Post: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow,
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

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

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