



9 July 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: AD-IG-01(2)-2015-59

Key Word: Vehicle Cleaning

Subject: Vehicle Cleaning

Request: **Date Received:** 20/05/2015
 Monitoring Date: 21/05/2015
 Date of Response: 09/07/2015

Thank you for your request for information received 20 May 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.

I would apologise fully for the delay in the provision of the information and for your patience with same.

Question 1

Can you please confirm that your own staff are responsible for the routine weekly cleaning of front line operational emergency ambulances

Answer 1

Yes

Question 2

What formal training do operational staff receive in deep cleaning and how is this maintained and monitored

Answer 2

Please refer to pages 9 – 11 of the attached Infection, Prevention & Control Policy dated December 2009 and explanation of training provided.

Question 3

Can you tell me in total how many front line Emergency ambulances (not RRV) are operational within Northern Ireland.

Answer 3

115 A&E vehicles operational as at 30 April 2015, however this in no way reflects the total of A&E vehicles operational on a daily basis within the Trust and reflects the fleet profile of A&E vehicles as at that date. A daily average of 62 A&E vehicles can operate at peak of day.

Question 4

As your own cleaning policy states that each vehicle should be stood down for cleaning every week. For the month of January 2015 could you please tell me how many emergency ambulances (not RRV) were stood down for the recommended 2 hour cleaning period on a weekly basis.



Answer 4

The cleaning policy seeks to ensure vehicles have a baseline state of cleanliness. Standing vehicles down for cleaning is highly dependent on demand on the service and whether or not the vehicle scheduled for cleaning on a particular date is available for that cleaning. It must be understood that the context within which this is set is one whereby vehicles are cleaned after every call as required or appropriate. Every time a crew completes a call they 'make ready' for the next call and this will include linen changes and surface wipe downs as required and if necessary more elaborate cleaning and decontamination will also be carried out should this be necessary at that time. Vehicles are also cleaned at the end of each shift as required. On-coming crews expect off-going crews to have left the vehicle in a suitably clean and roadworthy state. In many areas and stations of Northern Ireland the crews themselves ensure their vehicles are in the best possible condition given that it is their working environment.

Please note, the figures below are a record of occasions when crews have requested cleaning and either been turned down due to workload or permitted to clean. On occasions the crews do not request cleaning e.g. when they maintain their vehicle over and above the minimum standard and these incidents are not recorded.

January 2015: A&E vehicles stood down for cleaning at this allocated time

Week 1: 29/12/2014 to 04/01/2015: 8 vehicles
Week 2: 05/01/2015 to 11/01/2015: 15 vehicles
Week 3: 12/01/2015 to 18/01/2015: 16 vehicles
Week 4: 19/01/2015 to 25/01/2015: 16 vehicles
Week 5: 26/01/2015 to 01/02/2015: 15 vehicles

Question 5

Could you please inform me of the number of ambulances operational in Northern Ireland that were not stood down for a 2 hour cleaning period for each week of January 2015

Answer 5

January 2015: A&E vehicles not stood down for cleaning at their allocated time

Week 1: 29/12/2014 to 04/01/2015: 9 vehicles
Week 2: 05/01/2015 to 11/01/2015: 12 vehicles
Week 3: 12/01/2015 to 18/01/2015: 19 vehicles
Week 4: 19/01/2015 to 25/01/2015: 32 vehicles
Week 5: 26/01/2015 to 01/02/2015: 27 vehicles

Question 6

From your records how many Ambulances have not been stood down for this 2 hour cleaning period for a period exceeding 3 weeks

Answer 6

47 vehicles – it should be noted that this includes vehicles that are not in regular operational use. It should be noted that these vehicles may have been cleaned as per policy and procedure within subsequent days.

However please note that the data provided above may contain significant data quality issues and should be used in caution.

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 faithfully

Alison Vitty

Alison Vitty (Miss)
CORPORATE MANAGER