



**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-2016-154  
**Key Word:** Ambulances being Obstructed  
**Subject:** Ambulances being Obstructed  
**Request:** **Date Received:** 25/11/2016  
**Monitoring Date:** 28/11/2016  
**Date of Response:** 15/12/2016

Thank you for your request for information received on 25 November 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**

How many instances in the past 3 years (Jan 1 2013-present day) have been reported/recorded of ambulance vehicles being obstructed?

**Answer 1**

Based on a review of Untoward Incidents ie when staff report incidents we can confirm that there have has been 1 instances reported of an ambulance vehicle being obstructed.

**Question 2**

If possible, could I get a year by year breakdown?

**Answer 2**

2013: 1 incident  
2014: 0 incidents  
2015: 0 incidents  
2016: 0 incidents

**Question 3**

Could I also get a breakdown by area of where these instances were reported?

**Answer 3**

The exact location of the incident is not noted on the Untoward Incident report, however it occurred in the Northern Division.

**Question 4**

How many times were these instances reported as a crime?

**Answer 4**

No information held.

**Question 5**

What form of obstructions did these take?

**Answer 5**

A road was about to be closed and the crew were obstructed regarding access.



Please note the data provided is based on Untoward Incident forms which is how staff would report such incidents. It should be further noted that ambulance personnel are trained to be able to drive under blue light conditions and may come across incidents of obstructions but take steps professionally to deal with same at that time and which are not reported.

I hope the above fully assists you.

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)

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**