



30 January 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Request No: AD-IG-01(2)-2015-1
Key Word: Ambulance/Community First Responder Schemes
Subject: Ambulance/Community First Responder Schemes
Request: **Date Received:** 08/01/2015 **Date of Response:** 30/01/2015

Thank you for your request for information received on 8 January 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 and attached for your attention.

Question 1

Could you please provide me with digital copies of your current publications relevant to your Ambulance/Community First Responder Scheme for example:

- a. Volunteer Agreement.
- b. Protocols for deployment, training and treatment of patients.
- c. List of approved, equipment, gasses and drugs.
- d. First Responder Strategy.

Answer 1 (a) and b

We do not have separate volunteer agreements or protocols for deployment, training and treatment of patients. The agreement and protocols for deployment and training are contained within the MoU. The treatment protocols form part of the training that we require to be undertaken by the volunteers and provided by a recognised training body to national standards, for example St John Ambulance, British Red Cross, etc. and we require evidence of this.

Answer 1(c)

Please find attached list of suggested equipment. We would further confirm that the only medical gas that is in use by the Community First Responders in Northern Ireland is oxygen, provided they are trained to use it. We do not at present permit the use of any drugs.

Answer 1(d)

NIAS does not have a First Responder Strategy as such, which is why we have led on the development of the Regional Community Resuscitation Strategy which was launched the Health Minister in July 2014, and this will lead to the appointment of Community Resuscitation Development Officers and a First Responder Strategy. For your ease we have attached a copy of the Communication Resuscitation Strategy.

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

Phone: 0303 123 1114 **Email:** ni@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Post: Information Commissioner's Office, 3rd 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

Alison Vitty (Miss)
CORPORATE MANAGER