



17 February 2015

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

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

Key Word: Police Protection

Subject: Police Protection

Request: **Date Received:** 19/01/2015 **Date of Response:** 17/02/2015

Thank you for your request for information received on 19 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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information relating to the calendar years: 2012, 2013, 2014:

Question 1

A list of addresses where ambulances cannot attend without the police or protection, or deemed unsafe or as no-go zones/areas. If it is not possible to provide the full address due to data protection laws, please provide the street and/or postcode.

Answer 1

We do not have a list of addresses where ambulance cannot attend without the police or protection. We do have a number of information markers on addresses whereby police presence may be considered, however, this does not mean that a crew will not respond to an incident. The information marker provides the responding crews with information that an incident has previously occurred at that location and includes the nature of the previous incident eg physical assault with a weapon and the date it occurred. It may state advice that PSNI may be considered. This in turn will inform the risk assessment by the crew as to whether police presence is required or not. We do not have any deemed unsafe or no-go area zones. There will be a small number of occasions when due to civil disturbance in some areas, that an ambulance will be asked to remain in a close proximity location behind a police line and patients are brought out to them or the crew goes in to treat the patient with police assistance. For example if a riot was taking place.

Question 2

Please provide the name of the person who authorises the decision for these 'no-go' areas.

Answer 2

As stated above, there are no "no go" areas.

Question 3

If the cost limit has not yet been exceeded, please provide me with the number of times ambulances were called to these locations in 2014. Please provide the postcode, date, reason for the ambulance call and the amount of time taken for the ambulance to reach



the incident. Please state whether the time taken to reach the patient was longer due to the need for police escort.

Answer 3

As stated above, there are no “no go” areas.

Question 4

If possible, please provide details of why police attendance is necessary, for example the incident that occurred previously.

Answer 4

As stated above, there are no “no go” areas and therefore no information held on why police attendance is necessary. If an information marker is showing on a property address that suggests considering police attendance, this could be for a number of reasons including incidents involving physical/verbal abuse etc.

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 MANAGE