



21 November 2014

Email: Mr David van Eyck request-227988-353d1f92@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr van Eyck

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-2014-113

**Key Word:** Ketamine

**Subject:** Ketamine

**Request:** **Date Received:** 29/10/2014 **Date of Response:** 19/11/2014

Your request for information was received on 29 October 2014 and 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**

Please provide annual figures for ketamine-related emergency calls, for each year 1990-2014.

**Answer 1**

We do not hold records fully for the period you have identified. We have been able to search electronic records from 2002 onwards until 2008 and from 1 January 2011 to 10 November 2014. Ketamine is not a specifically defined chief complaint and would fall under the remit of Overdose/Poisoning and based on a search of "What's the problem" freetext field we have been able to identify the following:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Call Numbers</u>
2014	1
2013	4
2012	1
2011	1
2008 to 2011	Data cannot be searched or analysed at this time, as the records have been flattened into a code format which we cannot currently extract or manipulate data from
2002 to 2008	No records found

**Question 2**

Please provide annual figures for ketamine-related deaths in NHS ambulances, for each year 1990-2014.

**Answer 2**

For all the calls identified above, the patients either transported to an Emergency Department or refused to travel.

**Question 3**

Please provide copies of any available and relevant infosheets or leaflets regarding ketamine (e.g. either public health notices, treatment/situation guidelines, advice to professional staff, etc.)

**Answer 3**

The Trust holds no information sheets or leaflets regarding ketamine.

**Question 4**

What percentage of patients were administered ketamine in an NHS ambulance, for each year 1990-2014?

**Answer 4**

Ambulance personnel do not hold ketamine as part of their drug packs and cannot administer same.

**Question 5**

What are NHS standard treatment guidelines for 'recreational' ketamine use admissions

**Answer 5**

We are a Health and Social Care Trust (HSC) rather than NHS. However, we do not hold any HSC guidelines on same.

**Question 6**

How many emergency calls related to recreational ketamine use involved IV or IM use?

**Answer 6**

The Patient Report Forms which are completed by the attending ambulance personnel in relation to clinical/medical assessment and treatment have been accessed for the 7 calls identified above in Answer 1. None of the records state IV or IM usage.

**Question 7**

How many deaths in emergency calls related to recreational ketamine use involved IV or IM use?

**Answer 7**

Please refer to Answer 6 above.

**Question 8**

How many emergency calls related to recreational ketamine use also involved other drugs?

**Answer 8**

One incident in 2013 states that methadone and ketamine have been taken

**Question 9**

How many deaths in NHS ambulances related to recreational ketamine use also involved other drugs?

**Answer 9**

All patients identified in Answer 1 either transported to an Emergency Department or refused to travel.

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](http://www.informationcommissioner.co.uk)  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1114 **Email:** [xx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xx@xxx.xxx.xxx.xx)  
**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

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**Alison Vitty (Miss)**  
**CORPORATE MANAGER**