



16 December 2019

Email: F Dixon <request-620730-d9fd8b04@whatdotheyknow.com>

Dear Sir/Madam

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

**Request No:** AD-IG-01(2)-231-2019

**Subject:** Trainee Paramedics & CPD for Senior Officers

**Request:**                      **Date Received:**                      16/11/2019  
   **Date of Monitoring:**                      18/11/2019  
   **Date of Response:**                      16/11/2019

Thank you for your request for information received on 16 November 2019 which is detailed below.

**Question 1**

Could you please provide the figures for current staff who are currently undertaking trainee paramedic positions. What is the schedule for this - such as, are they attending a University, if so where, or is it internal training.

**Answer 1**

A total of 39 students successfully completed the FdSc from Cohort 1. A total of 42 students are currently completing bridging as part of the recruitment process for Cohort 2. The programme is delivered internally and validated by the Ulster University.

**Question 2**

When did training commence and when does it finish?

**Answer 2**

The programme is 40 weeks in duration and was delivered between 14 January 2018 to 18 October 2018. Programme 2 will follow a similar timeline.

**Question 3**

What must each candidate do before becoming a paramedic - please provide a description of the hours they must work, how they complete these hours, are they straight from EMT positions?

**Answer 3**

Direct entry to year two of the FdSc is being offered internally to all staff in possession of GCSE Maths and English Grade C or above (or equivalent) and Associate Ambulance Practitioner qualification. Successful bridging and APEL must also be obtained. The AAP programme includes a minimum of 750 practice hours to complete the qualification.



**Question 4**

When was the intake for trainee paramedics As part of their training, do they go out on calls with existing A&E crews, as a 3rd man?

**Answer 4**

HSC recruit advertisement for Cohort 2 went live on 24 June 2019 and closed on 15 July 2019. Interviews occurred over two weeks from 12 August 2019 – 30 August 2019. Students are supernumerary whilst on the programme and undertake operational shifts under the supervision of a Paramedic practice educator.

**Question 5**

Can you please also explain how often and has CPD (Continuous Personal/professional Development) being done for senior officers within NIAS, who were paramedics out on the road, and then moved to internal positions and are not practising/hands on experience utilising their paramedic skills on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

**Answer 5**

Yes, Post Proficiency training is delivered annually (subject to operational pressures) to provide clinical updates for NIAS senior officers. Senior Officers have a responsibility to ensure post proficiency training is completed during the course of the year to ensure compliance with CPD requirements and any relevant professional registration a member of staff may hold i.e nursing etc.

**Question 6**

Are there records kept on each individual.

Are they required, and do they, during staff shortages, work on frontline positions in A&E ambulances - this applies to staff within Training Branch, Station Officers, desk jobs, etc and all staff who went from positions of paramedic to supervisory or training roles.

**Answer 6**

- Yes, training records are held by the Regional Ambulance Training Centre for all staff who complete annual clinical updates.
- Yes, during staff shortages and varying levels of pressures on the service and in line with Business Continuity, Senior Officers would be required to work in frontline positions.

I hope this 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. 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 Director of Finance and ICT, 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)

**Post:** 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 faithfully

***Alison Vitty***

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