



Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna
Teach Dara, Ascaill an Crann Teile
Páirc na Mílaoise
Nás na Rí, Co. Chill Dara W91 KDC2

National Ambulance Service
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23rd April 2019

Mr Bernard J Durkan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 16129/19: “To ask the Minister for Health his plans for improved ambulance services in Maynooth, County Kildare and the surrounding area with particular reference to population increases in the local area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National Ambulance Service is the statutory pre-hospital emergency and intermediate care provider for the State. In the Dublin metropolitan area, ambulance services are provided by the NAS and Dublin Fire Brigade via a funding arrangement with the HSE. The National Ambulance Service Operational Areas; North Leinster, South and West operate from 100 locations across the country. The call taking and dispatch function is operated by the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) which operates across two sites, Dublin and Ballyshannon. All NAS resources are dispatched to calls across the country by the NEOC on a nearest available (to the incident) basis and not on a county boundary basis.

NEOC utilises an Advanced Medical Priority Dispatch System (AMPDS) which utilises international standards in triaging and prioritising emergency calls. This system ensures that life threatening calls receive an immediate and appropriate response, while lower acuity calls may have to wait until an emergency resource becomes available. The NAS has recently established a Clinical Hub to implement the ‘Hear and Treat’ alternative care pathway for low acuity calls that don’t require the dispatch of an emergency ambulance.

At a local level, the NAS is also supported by 215 Community First Responder schemes, responding to particular types of medical emergencies (i.e. cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, chest pain, choking and stroke) across the country, where it is essential for the patient to receive immediate life-saving care whilst an emergency response vehicle is en route to the patient. Currently there are 15 Community First Responder Groups operating in County Kildare

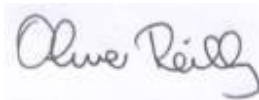


The NAS operates an Intermediate Care Service (ICS) to provide transport of non ambulatory patients to and from the Acute Hospital network and to prioritise the discharge of patients from acute hospitals in order to provide beds for patients awaiting admission in the emergency departments. ICS resources are also utilised to support emergency resources by responding to life threatening emergencies.

The NAS operates on a national and area basis as opposed to a local or county basis. The NAS will dispatch the nearest available resource to incidents as they arise.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require further information please contact me

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Reilly', is shown within a light blue rectangular border.

Oliver Reilly
Asst Chief Ambulance Officer