



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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7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Mr Gerry Adams TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 9893/19:** “To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance staff on duty over the night of 20 February 2019 and the early hours of 21 February 2019 in ambulance stations in Ardee, Dundalk, Castleblayney, Monaghan and Virginia; if these ambulance stations had a full complement of staff on this night; and if not, the number of personnel they were short”

**PQ 9894/19:** “To ask the Minister for Health if ambulance stations in the north-east region were understaffed over the night of 20 February and early hours of 21 February 2019; if so, the number of shifts unfilled; and the locations at which this occurred

**PQ 9895/19:** “To ask the Minister for Health if there were ambulance stations in the north-east region over the night of 20 February and early hours of 21 February 2019 at which ambulance personnel were present without an ambulance; and if so, the locations this occurred.”

**PQ 9899/19:** “To ask the Minister for Health if it is National Ambulance Service policy for ambulance staff rostered to an ambulance station to leave their shift to cover an overtime shift in another location in response to a text.”

Dear Deputy Adams,

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

The National Ambulance Service can confirm that the service did experience a shortage of eight staff across the North East on the night of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019 including short notice absences.

The NAS response to these situations includes the use of dynamic deployment, various models of resource utilisation and call prioritisation. This ensures the optimum use of resources at all times and the NAS can confirm that patient care was not compromised.

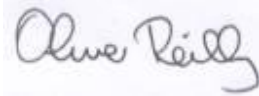
The NAS can also confirm that there was no ambulance stations left without ambulances during this time.



In relation to the question of staff rostered to an ambulance station it is not policy for such staff to leave their shift to cover an overtime shift in another location in response to a text.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oliver Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'O' and 'R'.

Oliver Reilly  
Asst Chief Ambulance Officer