



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

National Ambulance Service
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20th June 2019

Mr Brendan Ryan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 25695/19: “To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there are 102 ambulance stations nationally; if his attention has been drawn to the fact that 94 of these stations operate on a 24/7 basis, 52 weeks a year, 365 days per year; if his attention has been further drawn to the fact that the other 8 stations operate on a 24 hour basis 6 days a week and a 12 hour basis for the other day 52 weeks per year; his views on whether in the interests of public health all 102 ambulance stations should operate on a 24/7 basis, 52 weeks per year, 365 days per year; his plans to bring about the change in the operation of the other eight stations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. .”

Dear Deputy Ryan,

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 operates on a national and area basis as opposed to a local or county basis. Resources are dispatched to incidents on a nearest available basis (to the incident).

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.

The NAS is also supported by 228 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.

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

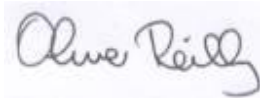


emergency departments. ICS resources are also utilised to support emergency resources by responding to life threatening emergencies

The NAS in conjunction with the Irish Air Corps operates an Emergency Aero Medical Service based at Custume Barracks in Athlone. A second Emergency Aero Medical service will operate in conjunction between the NAS and the Irish Community Rapid Response charity from the Cork area in the coming weeks. Additional helicopter support is provided by the Irish Coast Guard.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Oliver Reilly". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Oliver Reilly
Asst Chief Ambulance Officer