



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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27th March 2019

Ms Joan Collins TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 12101/19: “To ask the Minister for Health the level to which staffing levels in the National Ambulance Service need to fall to before it is considered a national emergency; and the point at which the Army could be called to assist the service.”

Dear Deputy Collins,

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 there are specific policies and procedures in place in relation to managing staffing on a daily basis. The National Emergency Operations Centre has a full overview of staffing levels on a local, area and national basis.

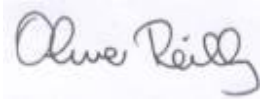
The NAS operate a nationally agreed structured leave policy which ensures pre planned leave is organised and appropriate cover is provided for staff during leave periods. The NAS also operates the HSE Attendance Management Policy and ensures that where staff are experiencing challenges in relation to their attendance through illness for example, arrangements can be put in place to assist staff and identify the need for locum cover in the interim.

The NAS has plans in place to provide for a response and continuity of services in relation to major emergencies and adverse weather conditions which would include seeking the assistance of the Defence Forces.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require further information please 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 initial 'O' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Oliver Reilly
Asst Chief Ambulance Officer