



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

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25th March 2019

Ms Joan Collins TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 12241/19: “To ask the Minister for Health the minimum staffing level for intermediate care operative grades in County Limerick; and the provisions that have been put in place to cover absences for the grade in the area.”

PQ 12242/19: “To ask the Minister for Health the reason overtime for intermediate care operative grades in the National Ambulance Service in County Limerick has been discontinued; and the amount paid to private ambulances from 1 January to 31 December 2018 in County Limerick.”

PQ 12123/19: “To ask the Minister for Health the collective agreement between the recognised unions and the HSE regarding paramedic ICO locations; and if there has been adverse incidents regarding this agreement.”

PQ 12125/19: “To ask the Minister for Health if the current roster is the minimum staffing level for ICO nationally.”

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 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 ICS operates across the country in accordance with approved funding and staff levels.

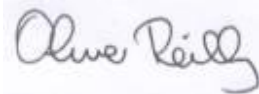
ICO staff (and their trade unions) are aware that the Intermediate Care Service is not funded for overtime, however it was agreed in certain required circumstances that overtime may be approved.



The NAS National Framework Document which was agreed with NAS Management and SIPTU in 2011 was agreed in line with the provisions of the Public Service Agreement 2010 – 2014.

National Ambulance Service Management are conducting an analysis of rosters at the Ambulance Station in Limerick with a view to optimising all resources to ensure optimal use of NAS resources within existing levels of funding and staff allocation.

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