



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamhlacht,
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2.
Fón 01 4631608.
Riomhphost: pauline.mcdonagh@hse.ie

Office of the Director of the National Ambulance Service,
National Ambulance Service,
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18th November 2019.

Mr. Noel Grealish TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ 44515/19: To ask the Minister for Health the person or body that authorised the cessation of deductions from the salaries of ambulance staff for unions (the PNA/NASRA) which was in place for a number of years; the reason the decision was made; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Grealish,

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.

Health Business Services (HBS) is the business division of the Health Service Executive (HSE) and provides business services and solutions including HR/Payroll systems and analytics globally across the health sector. Certain National Ambulance Service (NAS) staff members received correspondence from HBS outlining an anomaly which inadvertently facilitated salary deductions for subscriptions for an un-recognised organisation for the NAS and accordingly that these deductions would no longer occur.

The collection of subscriptions is an administrative matter between an un-recognised organisation and its members. It is not a matter for the NAS in respect of an organisation that has no recognition or negotiation rights for NAS staff. The NAS as a unit of the HSE can only engage with those unions that have been recognised in respect of the grade, group or category of workers in question.



Seirbhís Sláinte
Níos Fearr
á Forbairt

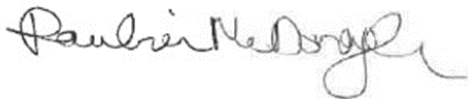
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Service

The NAS is committed to maintaining positive industrial relations with its entire staff. Ambulance personnel are well represented through agreed industrial relations processes and SIPTU is the recognised trade union for front-line staff. In addition to SIPTU, UNITE and FORSA are also recognised unions for NAS staff. The National Ambulance Service Representative Association (NASRA) is not a registered trade union, it is a division of the Psychiatric Nurses Association.

The principle of engaging only with recognised trade unions has been acknowledged previously by the Labour Court in a dispute involving the Psychiatric Nurses Association and a different public-sector employer. With this in mind, the NAS intends to stand by the agreements that it has made with recognised unions and will not undermine those agreements by engaging with other organisations or unions. This approach is in keeping within Government policy and supports the consolidation that is happening within the wider trade union environment.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Pauline McDonagh', written in black ink.

Pauline McDonagh,
Senior Executive Officer