



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
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Ms. Claire Kerrane TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

**Re: PQ 10132/20: To ask the Minister for Health if establishing a helicopter pad for the safe landing of the air ambulance in Castlerea, County Roscommon will be considered; the estimated associated costs to provide such a service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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 in conjunction with the Irish Air Corps and the Department of Defence operates an Emergency Aeromedical Service. The helicopter service is based at Custume Barracks in Athlone and is staffed by an Air Corps flight crew and an NAS Advanced Paramedic.

Currently, there are a number of landing sites both within the confines of Castlerea and a five kilometres radius. The pilot is ultimately responsible for the decision to land the aircraft. The National Ambulance Service are not aware that the Irish Air Corps or Department of Defence are seeking the provision of a permanent landing site in Castlerea. Therefore, such costs have not been estimated as there are a number of determinants which affect developmental and on-going operational costs etc.

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

Yours sincerely,

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Pauline McDonagh,  
Senior Executive Officer.

