



Deputy Denis Naughten,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

13/11/2020

RE PQ 34455/20

Question

To ask the Minister for Health the reason a night-time air ambulance service is being tendered out rather than being offered to the Air Corps; if he considered tendering out the day time service and providing the night-time service via the Air Corps; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Denis Naughten

Response

Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) 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.

Historically air ambulance services were and continue to be provided to the health service by the Irish Air Corps. There is a long history of co-operation (50 years) and goodwill between the Irish Air Corps and the HSE and its predecessors the Health Boards. However, the Irish Air Corps suffered loss of personnel and other resources during the recession of 2008 and the ensuing period of austerity measures where public servant recruitment and retention suffered significantly. It is understood that in recent months the IAC aircraft resources have increased and this will be reviewed and monitored.

However, in the absence of the availability of a 24/7 service to the HSE, the HSE has no option but to ensure emergency air ambulance 24/7 availability through a tendering process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Head of Procurement on (01) 635 2251 or via ohop@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

