4th November 2020.

Mr. Sean Sherlock TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

> **Re: 31580/20. To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance calls by county in which the ambulance had to leave their county base; the county the ambulance travelled to; and the time involved for such calls in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 a response.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) priorities pre-hospital and out-of-hospital care to patients most in need. NAS does not and is not confined by any county boundaries or borders with its responses. Therefore, it operates on a region and national basis as opposed to a local basis.

All 112/999 requests for ambulances assistance to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) are logged on an unified technology system that includes systematised caller questioning, provides pre-arrival instructions and the dispatching of appropriate aid to medical emergencies. Allied to this is the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council's eight principles for Dispatchers which is used when dispatching available resources to an incident. The first principal is to task the nearest available resource to the highest priority incident. This ensures that the right resource, is sent to the right call, each time to cater for the patient's needs in the shortest possible time.
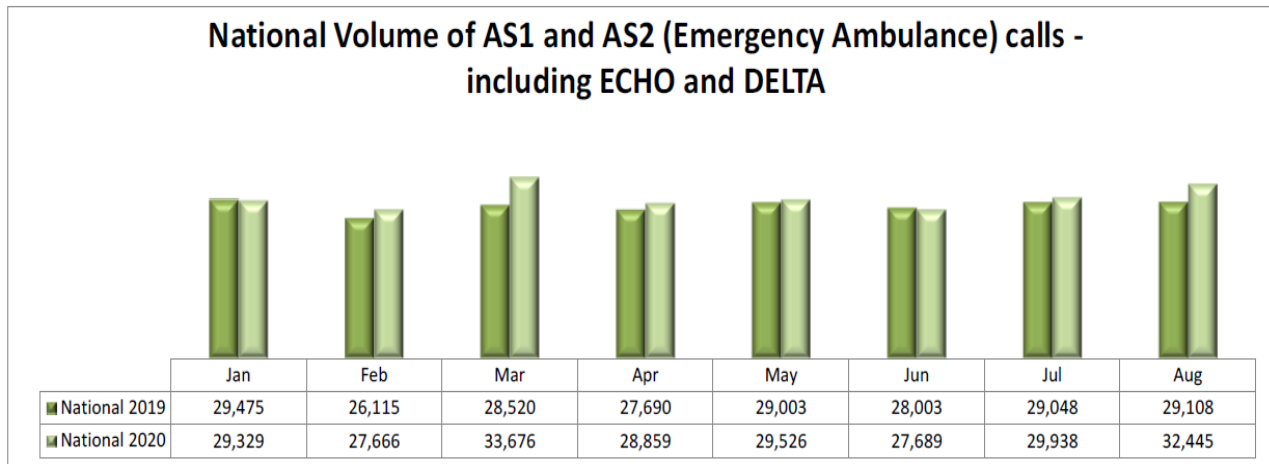Unlike static deployment (station-based system) where a dispatched ambulance leaves a coverage gap until it returns to their home-base after service, dynamic deployment deploys available emergency ambulances to different locations and this leads to an increase in demand coverage.

This has resulted in the most appropriate responses to patients most in need and ensures better response times rather than the previous operational configuration of static deployment. With the usage of dynamic deployment, there is no defined local geographic area covered by any ambulance base.
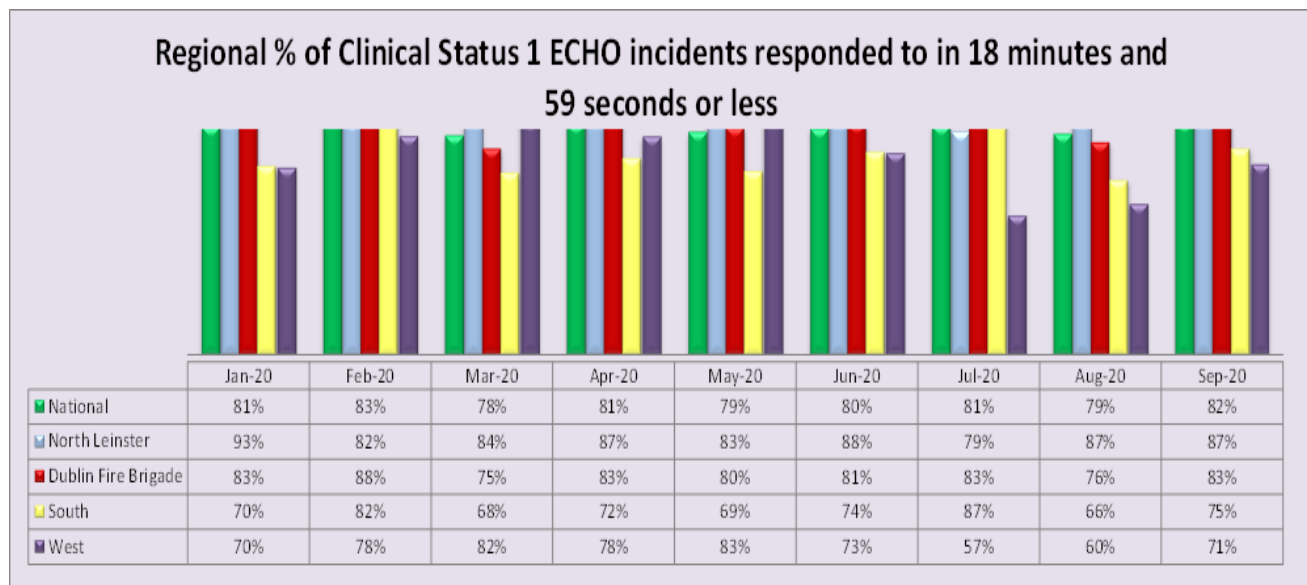
The table below outline the number of emergency calls received (AS1 refers to 112/999 calls and AS2 to urgent calls received from GPs/other medical sources) - a comparison to the same periods in 2019 is also provided.

National Volume of AS1 and AS2 (Emergency Ambulance) calls - including ECHO and DELTA

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
National 2019	29,475	26,115	28,520	27,690	29,003	28,003	29,048	29,108
National 2020	29,329	27,666	33,676	28,859	29,526	27,689	29,938	32,445

Please see below response times for 'ECHO' (life-threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest) responded to in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less for the National Ambulance Service (by former Health Board areas) and Dublin Fire Brigade for the latest published period up to and including August 2020.

Regional % of Clinical Status 1 ECHO incidents responded to in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less

	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20
National	81%	83%	78%	81%	79%	80%	81%	79%	82%
North Leinster	93%	82%	84%	87%	83%	88%	79%	87%	87%
Dublin Fire Brigade	83%	88%	75%	83%	80%	81%	83%	76%	83%
South	70%	82%	68%	72%	69%	74%	87%	66%	75%
West	70%	78%	82%	78%	83%	73%	57%	60%	71%

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

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh,
Senior Executive Officer.