



Oifig Stiúirthóir 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,  
Rivers Building,  
Tallaght Cross,  
Tallaght,  
Dublin D24 XNP2.  
Telephone: 01 4631608.  
Email: pauline.mcdonagh@hse.ie

5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Mr. Seán Canney TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

**Re: PQ 24872/20. To ask the Minister for Health the reason qualified PHECC registered advanced paramedics are not being recruited into the National Ambulance Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Canney,

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.

There is no internationally agreed standard of clinical practice for Advanced Paramedics. The term Advanced Paramedic can reflect a multitude of clinical competencies in differing jurisdictions, even within the EU. The clinical education and training required by the National Ambulance Service and its College ensures that it's Advanced Paramedic personnel have one of the higher clinical practice skill sets for emergency care available internationally. Therefore, not all PHECC registered Advanced Paramedics have the same clinical practice education and skills set.

Advanced Paramedics can apply to join the National Ambulance Service through the continuous recruitment campaign for PHECC qualified Paramedics managed by the HSE National Recruitment Service. On joining the National Ambulance Service both Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics undertake an induction programme that encompasses many aspects including corporate and clinical induction requirements. This is to ensure that practitioners who have trained abroad or who have been out of clinical practice for extended periods of time can confidently and competently provide patient care at the appropriate level of practice. The induction process can take a period of time based on individual needs and the tutors provide supports throughout the process. Each candidate is in receipt of salary and an Advanced Paramedic will receive the additional allowance for this position on successful completion of the programme.

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

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh - Senior Executive Officer.

