



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamlacht,
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

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

5th May 2021.

Re: PQ18915/21.

To ask the Minister for Health the reason there is a discrepancy between grades of staff within the national ambulance service and the grades of paramedic and advanced paramedic (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

(why there is a discrepancy between grades of staff within the national ambulance service, i.e. the difference between Emergency Medical Technicians, [called Intermediate Care Operatives within the service], and the grades of Paramedic and Advanced Paramedic. This is in the most part in relation to the rates of pay for extended duty (an over-run after rostered finishing time) and working on a rest-day, [an overtime shift])

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.

There are distinct differences between an Emergency Medical Technician/Intermediate Care Operative and a Paramedic and an Advanced Paramedic as their have different roles within the National Ambulance Service.

An Emergency Medical Technician/Intermediate Care Operative is tasked with non-critical routine patient transportation. This type of patient transportation is between hospitals and other locations and falls under the heading of 'Support Staff'. This category of National Ambulance Service staff is tasked to attend low acuity calls only which is within their scope of practice as approved by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). 'Support Staff' complete a relatively short course (within three months) to register with PHECC at this level.

Since 2019, for entrants seeking to qualify as Paramedics with the National Ambulance Service, they must now successfully undertake a BSc Degree in Paramedical Science (which operates in conjunction with University College Cork).



The qualified role of a Paramedic is to offer advanced life support to patients and are tasked to urgent medical emergencies as part of a daily workload. This grade of staff composes part of the 'Patient Client Care' profession within the HSE and they have a significant clinical role in this continuum as 'First Responders'.

Following successful graduation, a Paramedic must have a minimum of two years registration as a Paramedic (including a post-graduate internship) with PHECC in order to be eligible to apply for the Advanced Paramedic training programme.

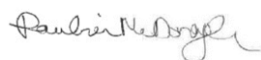
The salaries associated with these posts are reflected by:

- The level of clinical responsibility and accountability.
- The scope of practice.
- The treatment of complex medical emergencies.
- The administration of life saving medications and medical procedures to patients.

Therefore, different pay scales and terms and conditions apply for the three posts and are in accordance with Department of Health pay scales, HSE terms and conditions of employment and National Pay Agreements.

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.