



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
Áras na hAbhann,  
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,  
Tamhlacht,  
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2  
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Ref: WM/SD/PQ/211221

21<sup>st</sup> December 2021

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ6048/21**

*To ask the Minister for Health his views on the fire service being deployed as a first responder back-up service to the National Ambulance Service; if he will seek to advance the matter in cooperation with the National Ambulance Service and local authorities; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Pádraig Mac Lochlainn*

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above submitted Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for response.

The Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) Priority Dispatch Standard does authorise the use of Fire Service staff whom are trained as Emergency First Responders (EFR) to respond to specific categories of emergencies in a co-response or first response capacity, but not in a transporting capacity.

The NAS are currently engaging with Local Authority fire services with a few to utilizing the fire services as emergency first responders to cardiac arrest calls across the country. These discussions are currently ongoing

The use of Fire Service personnel is a matter for Local Authorities whom authorisation for the NAS to request the dispatch of Fire Services to such incidents must be granted by the relevant Local Authority.

Most Fire Services are retained which means each callout carries significant cost to the Local Authority in question. We understand that some Local Authorities have experienced a significant decline in fire related call outs which means that they have been able to re-direct resources to enable staff to respond to medical emergencies in a first responder capacity.





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If a Local authority authorised the deployment of their Fire Service staff, the NAS would be in a position to mobilise them to the appropriate 112/999 incidents in a first response capacity as recommended by PHECC.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

William Merriman  
Deputy Director  
National Ambulance Service