



Stiúthóir  
Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharchairr

Áras na hAbhann, Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,  
Tamhlacht, Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2

Office of the Director  
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross,  
Tallaght, Dublin, D24 XNP2

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 01 4631624/6  
e [director.nas@hse.ie](mailto:director.nas@hse.ie)

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22 December 2021

Deputy Joe Carey TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ61753/21**

***“To ask the Minister for Health if he will address a matter regarding the cost of services provided by a company (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Joe Carey TD***

*What cost to the taxpayer from the first installation to the present day was it to install tyre pressure gauges and diver ID system to all National Ambulance Service vehicles by Acetech Ltd; Why this systems has never been activated by Acetech Ltd; What rent they have charged for both systems from the first day they commenced the installation to all NAS fleet to the present day and what cost to the taxpayer is Acetech Ltd being paid by the National Ambulance Service for SIM card rental for each vehicle from the first installation to the present day.”*

Dear Deputy Carey,

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.

Tyre Pressure Monitoring Sensors (TPMS) were first fitted to all patient transport vehicles in 2011. TPMS systems are fitted to vehicles to identify that tyres are running at the correct pressure. Tyres not running at a correct pressure may not be safe and can leave a vehicle unstable when operating. It may further reduce the comfort for the patient within the vehicle. It is also acknowledged that under inflated tyres will create more surface drag thus increasing emissions and costs.

NAS was to the forefront in trialling this technology on emergency ambulances. The challenging environment in which Ambulance vehicles operate meant that the system at the time was not robust enough for Ambulance operations and TPMS was removed from Emergency Ambulances. TPMS is now only included on vehicles where it is provided by the Original Equipment Manufacturer.

The telemetry package facilitates remote fleet monitoring for vehicle performance and is utilised as a governance tool to monitor complex and expensive healthcare assets.

The telemetry package on ambulance vehicles not only monitors the vehicle but also sends critical patient information to the receiving hospital prior to arrival – often referred to as telemedicine. This critical information is vital to the treatment of patient particularly in relation to the immediate transport of the patient for immediate definitive treatment for Cerebral Vascular Accidents/-strokes where time is of the essence.

An added feature of this system is Driver Identification, however, at this time, NAS has not opted to avail of this feature at this time.





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NAS is currently in a live procurement process directly related to the fleet telemetry system. NAS has recently gone to the market for a Request For Information and is intending to issue an Invitation To Tender in the coming weeks. In this context, it would be inappropriate and contrary to public procurement practice to release commercially sensitive information in relation to costs at this time.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

Robert Morton  
Director  
National Ambulance Service