



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
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Mr. Dara Calleary TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

17<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

**Re: PQ5428/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the initiatives he has undertaken to support and acknowledge the work of paramedics within the health service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Calleary,

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.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) is an integral part of the HSE and National response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NAS response commenced on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and has continued without exception with every member of the NAS responding to this changing environment in a positive and proactive manner.

As a token of gratitude Mr. Martin Dunne, Director, National Ambulance Service, took the decision to issue to all members of the service a specially commissioned award. This was in recognition and to mark the continuing contribution that everyone within the NAS is providing to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not possible for a formal ceremonial approach in the presentation of this award and it was instead presented on a local basis from 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2020 and these presentations were fully completed soon after.

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.

