



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
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Mr. Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

17th February 2021.

Re: PQ 6112/21.

To ask the Minister for Health the date on which the National Ambulance Service plans to replace the interim additional ambulance cover measures for the Inishowen peninsula, County Donegal with permanent rostered staff in a permanent base in Buncrana, County Donegal; the way in which the National Ambulance Service plans utilising the six staff sanctioned; and the level of cover the Service plans to provide to Inishowen.

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

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 responses

I wish to advise you that the current arrangement for the Inishowen Peninsula is not an interim measure, i.e. cover is provided seven days a week from 10:00-19:00 hours.

A permanent base in Buncrana is in process as the National Ambulance Service (NAS) will be allocated facilities in the current HSE Health Centre. This Centre will be vacated for the NAS when the current services and associated staff re-locate to the new PCC in Buncrana. The current projected date for this to occur is in the last quarter of 2021. In the interim period, a temporary location in Buncrana which will meet NAS service and staff needs is being sought and this search is being undertaken by HSE Estates.

The six staff allocated to provide additional operational cover will provide supplementary day cover for the period 10:00 hours to 19:00 hours seven days a week.



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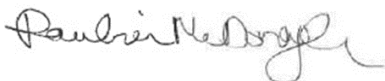
In addition to the above, also providing additional operational cover are two Community Paramedics (Advanced Paramedic grade) operating two days per week from Buncrana.

Furthermore, the permanent roster in Carndonagh has an Advanced Paramedic rostered on each shift.

Determining the optimum number of Emergency Ambulances and their deployment locations is informed by both historical data and future projections of anticipated emergency call volumes within the areas to be served, i.e. an evidenced based approach. Currently, no further resources have been sought for the Inishowen Peninsula.

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.