



Deputy Claire Kerrane,
Leinster House,
Kildare St,
Dublin 2
D02 XR20

July 7th, 2021

By email only:

Re: Response to PQ 23485/21 - 'To ask the Minister for Health the essential health and care needs that are in place to prepare for emergency situations on islands including pandemics and extreme weather events; and if he will make a statement on the matter.'

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

Firstly may we apologise for the delay in the issuance of this response to PQ 23485/21. This delay has occurred due to the recent cyberattack on the HSE. Below please find the prepared response to your above question:

All healthcare emergency services including those for the islands are channelled through the HSE National Ambulance Service (NAS) National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) who activate the appropriate response to a specific request for assistance and if required the appropriate HSE Area Crisis Management Team.

Some of the larger inhabited islands have access to GP and Public Health Nursing who have direct links to NAS National Emergency Operations centre to seek assistance in the event of an emergency. In the absence of this resource, telemedicine support is also available via HSE Medico.

HSE National Ambulance Service in conjunction with the Irish Coast Guard, RNLI, Irish Air Corps and Ferry operators have agreed procedures to respond to an island emergency.

HSE services plan and prepare for responding to emergency situations and develop the requisite emergency plans.





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These plans are based on an “all hazards” approach, in accordance with “A Framework for Major Emergency Management 2006 where” the common features of co-ordinated response and the management of common consequences are recognised, regardless of the origin of the emergency/crisis.

Documents of note within the context of ‘PQ ref 23485/21’, include:

- ‘A Framework for Major Emergency Management’ <http://mem.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/A-Framework-For-Major-Emergency-Management.pdf>
- ‘A Framework for Major Emergency Management – Appendices’ <http://mem.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/A-Framework-For-Major-Emergency-Management-Appendices.pdf>
- ‘A Guide to Severe Weather Emergencies’ http://mem.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Guidance-Document-14-Severe-Weather-Emergencies_DHPCLG.pdf
- ‘A Guide to Flood Emergencies’ http://mem.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/A-Guide-to-Flood-Emergencies-Ver2-11-July-2013_DHPCLG.pdf
- ‘A protocol for multi-agency response to Flood Emergencies’ <http://mem.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Protocol-for-Multi-agency-response-to-Flood-Emergencies-18Nov-16.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to advise if you require any further clarification.

Yours Sincerely,

Denise Long
General Manager, NEMO.



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