



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamhlacht,
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2
Fón 01 4631624/6.
Riomhphost: director.nas@hse.ie

National Ambulance Service,
Rivers Building,
Tallaght Cross,
Tallaght,
Dublin D24 XNP2
Telephone: 01 4631624/6.
Email: director.nas@hse.ie

Ref: WM/PQ/211202

2 December 2021

Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ55175/21

To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to address the shortages of ambulances in South-West County Cork - Holly Cairns

PQ55176/21

To ask the Minister for Health the average response time of ambulances in west County Cork; the number of ambulances ordinarily based at each location; and if he will make a statement on the matter - Holly Cairns

PQ55177/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of paramedics assigned to ambulance services in west County Cork; and the optimum number of paramedics that should serve that area. - Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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

As of 1 October 2021, NAS have commenced redeployment of up to 45 Paramedics from COVID related work to emergency ambulance duty and a further 80 Paramedics are due to graduate from the college at year end. NAS are also working with trade union partners to develop temporary alterations to the current deployment model to minimise the impact of the capacity challenges on staff. There is no intention to return to a geographically limited model which would re-introduce inherent patient safety risk.

In 2021, a further capacity analysis is now underway to inform future workforce planning.

A key target in the HSE's National Service Plan 2021 is that the majority of ambulance calls to life threatening incidents (ECHO and DELTA calls) are responded to in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less. This target was reached in the majority of calls last year. The National Ambulance Service expects to respond to a total of 360,000 call outs this year.





An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamhlacht,
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2
Fón 01 4631624/6.
Riomphost: director.nas@hse.ie

National Ambulance Service,
Rivers Building,
Tallaght Cross,
Tallaght,
Dublin D24 XNP2
Telephone: 01 4631624/6.
Email: director.nas@hse.ie

The HSE National Service Plan 2022 is expected to support the commencement of an Organisational Re-design of the National Ambulance Service (NAS) which is expected to be implemented over a 3-year period. The Organisational Re-design is a key objective of the draft NAS Strategy 2022-2026. The Organisational Re-Design process emerged from a detailed Information and Consultation process which concluded in August 2021 and involved representative groups and trade unions of all of those potentially affected.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Deputy Director
National Ambulance Service



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
 Áras na hAbhann,
 Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
 Tamhlacht,
 Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2
 Fón 01 4631624/6.
 Riomhphost: director.nas@hse.ie

National Ambulance Service,
 Rivers Building,
 Tallaght Cross,
 Tallaght,
 Dublin D24 XNP2
 Telephone: 01 4631624/6.
 Email: director.nas@hse.ie

Average Response times Jan to Sep 21 by Region – South – Category 1 calls

2019	00:20
2020	00:21
2021 (Jan – Sept)	00:25

West Cork	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Days	8 + RRV	8 + RRV	8 + RRV	8 + RRV	8 + RRV	8 + RRV	8 + RRV
Nights	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total Resources	13	13	13	13	13	13	13

South by staff group

Sep 2021 (Dec 2020 figure: 495)	WTE Aug 2021	WTE Sep 2021	WTE change since Aug 21	% change since Aug 21	WTE change since Dec 20	WTE change since Sep 20
Overall	475	476	+1	+0.2%	-19	-17
SHO/ Interns	1	1			+1	+1
Medical & Dental	1	1			+1	+1
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	3	4	+1	+25.9%	+2	-0
Clerical (III & IV)	8	8			-0	+1
Management & Administrative	11	12	+1	+7.6%	+2	+1
Support	1	1				
Maintenance/ Technical	1	1				
General Support	2	2				
Ambulance Staff	461	461	+0	+0.1%	-22	-19
Patient & Client Care	461	461	+0	+0.1%	-22	-19