



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,
Áras na hAbhann,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
Tamhlacht,
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Mr. David Cullinane TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

29th September 2021.

Re: PQ 43155/21

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of increasing community paramedicine resources by 5%; the staffing composition of current community paramedicine; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 43092/21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the National Ambulance Service does not recognise intermediate care operatives as ambulance personnel; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 43093/21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason the National Ambulance Service is asking intermediate care operatives to work on emergency ambulances; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 43094/21

To ask the Minister for Health the staffing levels of the National Ambulance Service by CHO; the current number of wholetime equivalent posts by occupation currently working; the recommended and budgeted number; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive 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 responses.

Currently in the National Ambulance Service there are eleven Paramedic/Advanced Paramedics deployed in the role of Community Paramedics across the country.

The Community Paramedic service requires deployment of two to three staff, working collaboratively to ensure the service can be provided across a seven day per week roster. This ensures maximising the positive and sustained impact of the service for the patients assessed and treated by the Community Paramedics.

The cost of increasing the current eleven whole time equivalent (WTE) staff providing the Community Paramedic service by five percent equates to an additional 0.55 WTE of a Community Paramedic (a part-time post equating to an additional circa nineteen hours per week). This would cost circa €35,320 per annum.



There are distinct differences between an Intermediate Care Operative and a Paramedic and an Advanced Paramedic as they have different roles within the National Ambulance Service. An Intermediate Care Operative is tasked with non-critical routine patient transportation which is within their scope of practice as approved by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). These staff complete a relatively short course (within three months) to register with PHECC at this level.

The National Ambulance Service continues to aspire to have two Paramedics as the ideal crewing model for those emergency calls which may require the Paramedic standard of care. In the context of the current public health emergency (COVID-19), the National Ambulance Service has had to focus on achieving the minimum standard, rather than the ideal. In this regard, our trade union partners have been helpful and supportive of our response to the current public health emergency and the protracted nature of the workforce planning challenge it presents.

The National Ambulance Service do not organise staffing levels by CHO. The current number of whole time equivalents by occupation which are within the employment budget.

Job Code & Description	(All)
Ambulance Officer, Assistant Chief	16
Ambulance Officer, Chief	3
Ambulance Officer	44
Area Operations Manager (CAO)	1
Clerical Officer	31
Clinical Hub Supervisor	1
Community Engagement Manager	1
Community Engagement Officer	4
Consultant in Emergency Medicine	1
Driver, Minibus	9
Driving Instructor	1
Education & Competency Assurance Officer	26
Emergency Medical Control Supervisor	20
Emergency Medical Controller	93
Emergency Medical Dispatcher	47
Emergency Medical Technician	1,148
Emergency Medical Technician Student	219
Emergency Medical Technician, Lead	218
General Manager	5
Grade IV	13
Grade V	17
Grade VI	11
Grade VII	11

Grade VIII	6
Intermediate Care Operative	149
Intermediate Care Operative COIVD (Swabbing)	30
Maintenance Craftsman/Technician	1
National Director, Assistant	2
Patient Transport Operative	1
Specialist Registrar	1
Team Leader Emergency Medical Controller	1
Work Placement Support Services	1
Grand Total	2,132

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Cronly,
Corporate Business and Portfolio Manager.