



Oifig Stiúrthóir na Seirbhíse Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Otharcharranna,  
Áras na hAbhann,  
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,  
Tamlacht,  
Baile Áth Cliath D24 XNP2  
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Ref: SD/PQ21/211005

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Deputy Paul McAuliffe TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

PQ 44963/21

To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to address the current wait times for ambulances in the Dublin area as patients have reported hour-long waits for emergency ambulances. - Paul McAuliffe

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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

The HSE is the statutory provider of Pre-Hospital Emergency Care and Intermediate Care Services in the State. Unique to the Dublin metropolitan area, Pre-Hospital Emergency Care is provided by both the NAS and Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) through an arrangement with Dublin City Council (DCC).

While the HSE delivers a broader range of ambulance services in and from Dublin, e.g. intermediate care, aeromedical, critical care retrieval, Children's ambulances, Pathfinder Vehicles and international transfers, both the HSE and DCC deliver land based Pre Hospital Emergency Care services in Dublin in compliance with the relevant standards as determined by the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).

The provision of ambulance services in Dublin have been the subject of multiple reviews and reports from various perspectives and authors over a significant period of time.

All stakeholders agree that the most significant perspective is patient safety and in this regard, the "*Review of Pre-Hospital emergency care services to ensure high quality in the assessment, diagnosis, clinical management and transporting of acutely ill patients to appropriate healthcare facilities*", published by the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) on 2 December 2014 <https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2017-01/HIQA-Ambulance-Review-Report-2014.pdf>, remains the sentinel and most pertinent report in relation to services in Dublin.





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This report made a serious of recommendations in relation to the safety and effectiveness of services in Dublin. As a consequence of these recommendations, the intention of the HSE, as recommended in the HIQA report, continues to be to ensure that DCC services continue to be an integral part of the delivery of pre hospital emergency care services in Dublin under the control and direction of a single National Emergency Operations Centre operated by NAS.

In this context, the HSE has been engaged in discussions with DCC for some time with regard to the development of a cooperation agreement that would underpin this relationship on an enduring basis.

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

Yours Sincerely,

William Merriman  
Deputy Director  
National Ambulance Service