Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha,
Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

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Ref: WM-PQs6260/6266-22.

22nd February 2022.

Mr. Mattie McGrath TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

> ***PQ6260/22***
> *To ask the Minister for Health if he will carry out a review into the operation of the National Ambulance Service; the locations of the callouts that all County Tipperary based ambulances have been tasked to call out to in the past three months; the number of ambulances based in the county daily; the average length of time for an ambulance to arrive at its callout location; the current operational arrangements for county based ambulances to respond within their county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*
> ***PQ6262/22***
> *To ask the Minister for Health the number of National Ambulance Staff based in County Tipperary in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy McGrath,

The 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 response.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) priorities pre-hospital and out-of-hospital care to patients most in need. NAS does not and is not confined by any county boundaries or borders with its responses. Therefore, it operates on a region and national basis as opposed to a county basis. All 112/999 requests for ambulances assistance to the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) are logged on an unified technology system that includes systematised caller questioning, provides pre-arrival instructions and the dispatching of appropriate aid to medical emergencies. Allied to this is the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council's eight principles for Dispatchers. These are used when dispatching available resources to an incident. The first principal is to task the nearest available resource to the highest priority incident, i.e. dynamic deployment. With the usage of dynamic deployment, there is no defined local geographic area covered by any ambulance bases. The dynamic deployment system used by the NAS deploys idle emergency ambulances to different locations. With a static deployment (station-based) system, dispatched ambulances leave a coverage gap until they return to their home-base after responding to an incident.

The National Ambulance Service reports on the average response times (from the time the Emergency Ambulance is dispatched) for 'Category 1' calls by division and region. 'Category 1' refers to life-threatening conditions requiring immediate intervention and/or resuscitation. For example, cardiac or respiratory arrest; airway obstruction; ineffective breathing; and unconscious patient with abnormal breathing etc.

In the West Division, the Mid-West region is composed on Tipperary North, Clare and Limerick while the South Division region of the South East is comprised of counties Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford and Wexford.

In 2021, the average 'Category 1' response time for the Mid-West region was 17 minutes for 5,779 responses while in the South East the average response time was 22 minutes for 5,921 responses.

The number of ambulances based in the county on daily basis (as per the staffing rosters) are as follows:

Days of the Week	Number of Ambulances
Monday	15
Tuesday	15
Wednesday	15
Thursday	15
Friday	15
Saturday	14
Sunday	14

The number of Paramedics/Advanced Paramedics posts in the County Tipperary for the last 5 years is 88.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Director,
National Ambulance Service.