



Oifig anStiúrthóir  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

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Ref: WM/PQ/220303

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Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ9133/22**

*To ask the Minister for Health the number of fully qualified paramedics and other ambulance staff with a degree in paramedic science; the number recruited with a diploma in emergency medical science from the National Ambulance Service since 2011; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Rose Conway-Walsh*

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

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

Delivering high levels of care is the priority at the NAS and the NAS College (NASC) is where all NAS staff receive training and on-going revalidation. NASC has the latest training aids and simulators which ensures comprehensive training in a consistent manner for all staff. Training is further provided for the Irish Coastguard, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, health care professionals and members of voluntary organisations.

The range of courses includes patient care programmes, leadership courses, tutor development, major incident planning and preparation and driving. NASC further provides vocational and professional education and training to ambulance and associated personnel based on current best practice, to meet the strategic and operational needs of the NAS and the people it serves.

NAS commenced the implementation of a level eight degree BSc (Honours) programme for its Student Paramedics in 2019. This group of 22 students will graduate in September of this year. Students of NASC since 1996 and prior to the introduction of the degree programme have been awarded a level 7 Diploma in Paramedic Technology or Paramedic Science, from 2011 the number of Diploma graduates is 594.

Since 2005 NAS staff have completed the Advanced Paramedic (AP) programme and have been awarded either a level 8 Higher Diploma or level 9 Graduate Diploma in Paramedic Science, totalling 482. From 2019 60 NASC students on the AP programme are awarded a level 9 Master of Science award.

I hope the information provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman  
Deputy Director  
National Ambulance Service

