



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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Deputy Réada Cronin
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

10th February 2022

PQ 3932/22 – To ask the Minister for Health the amount the State has paid to private ambulance contractors in each of the past five years; the number of contracts and companies; the names of the companies in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cronin,

The Health Service Executive 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.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) helps people with serious or life threatening conditions. Its main role is to respond to emergency 999 or 112 calls, providing medical care to patients across the country 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. Every year NAS receives between 275,000 and 280,000 emergency calls and in addition it provides a number of inter-hospital transfers.

In addition, there is a significant requirement for transfers of non-urgent public patients for various clinical reasons and private ambulance providers are used to provide additional capacity to handle such transfers where deemed necessary and required by the HSE. Examples include transfers between hospitals, between residential and acute settings and transfers for diagnostic tests at another hospital.

Expenditure on the use of private ambulances is managed at local hospital level.

Please find attached the data for HSE Private Ambulance costs by Vendor for the 5 years 2016 to 2020, which is the most recent data available which has been provided by the National Finance Division.

2021 data will not be available until after the year end and Annual Financial Statement is complete and approved.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Ivory
General Manager
Acute Operations