



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

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Ref: WM/PQ's/220208

Deputy Réada Cronin TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

11th February 2022

PQ3934/22 - *To ask the Minister for Health if his Department will examine the situation by which emergency medical technicians with several years' experience and an outstanding work record could access the HSE or Dublin Fire Brigade paramedic training scheme and when they are in to be able to use this in-the-field expertise and experience in lieu of some course time; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Réada Cronin*

Dear Deputy Cronin,

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 response.

The HSE National Ambulance Service regularly hold open recruitment campaigns for positions as student paramedics. The organisation has a recruitment process that clearly outlines the entry criteria. To date the holding of an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) qualification has not been an essential requirement as full paramedic training is provided by both organisations.

The standards for the training and education of paramedics are established and their implementation overseen by the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). These standards outline where, if any, recognition for previous relevant experience can be considered by the educational provider of the paramedic programme.

While there is some small amount of commonality in some aspects of the roles of an EMT and a paramedic, the scope of practice, duration of required education and operational role are considerably different, making recognition of EMT experience against the substantially more significant educational demands of a student paramedic extremely challenging.

For example, the current PHECC approved EMT is of a minimum of five weeks duration while the NAS paramedic programme is a level 8 Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree spanning over four academic years.

The HSE NAS recruitment campaigns are run within the HSE National Recruitment Service process in line with the recruitment licence and code of practice. The recruitment process clearly outlines the entry criteria.



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As part of the NAS commitment to patient safety all new staff who hold qualifications obtained within or outside the state must demonstrate clinical competency prior to entering practice on behalf of the NAS. The process utilises the clinical competency assessments that NAS College students must successfully complete, prior to entering their internship year.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Deputy Director, National Ambulance Service