



Oifig an Stiúrthóir  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director  
National Ambulance Service

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Ref: WMPQ's/220202

Deputy Niamh Smyth TD  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

PQ63127/21 - *To ask the Minister for Health the increase in ambulances, EMTs and paramedics to date in counties Cavan and Monaghan in view of the Programme for Government commitment to increase same; and the way response times have improved in the counties.* - Niamh Smyth

PQ63128/21 - *To ask the Minister for Health the latest response times for ambulances in counties Cavan, Monaghan and Meath and nationally in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.* - Niamh Smyth

Dear Deputy Smyth,

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 capacity of the NAS was last reviewed in 2014 and since then, over 500 staff have been recruited. However, recruitment to the NAS is being outpaced by demand for our services.

It is worth noting that there is no ready supply of Paramedics in Ireland and NAS for the most part must educate their own workforce in their own college. The Paramedic programme is degree level, i.e. four academic years undertaken over three calendar years. There are currently over 100 Student Paramedics at different stages of the programme right now. At this time, NAS estimate a requirement for an additional 90 emergency ambulances on duty every day which reflects a requirement for approx. 1,100 extra staff. The pace of predicted growth in demand might suggest 2,000 extra staff are required by 2028.

The outcome of the National Demand and Capacity Analysis is expected by the end of Q1 2022 and will then inform the development of a Workforce Plan in Q2 2022 which will inform the estimates submission for new development funding in the National Service Plan 2023 and each year thereafter.

All NAS resources are dispatched to calls across the country from the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) on a nearest available (to the incident) basis and not on a county boundary basis. In this context, NAS reports a regional basis only.

Every day, NAS deploys approximately 160-180 emergency ambulances, an average of 22 rapid response vehicles and in excess of 50 officer response vehicles operating from over 100 locations around the country, i.e. everywhere in the Republic of Ireland. All emergency ambulances are on duty, there are no on call arrangements.

Each year the level of demand for NAS services is growing. In 2021, NAS responded to over 363,000 emergency calls (362,000 - 2020)



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NAS operational areas are currently\* divided into three regions, North Leinster, West and South. The North Leinster Division includes:

- Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Wicklow, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath, Cavan, Louth and Monaghan.  
\*In 2023, NAS Operational Areas are expected to change in line with the creation of six Regional Health Authorities.

There is currently 23 (December 2021) Emergency Ambulances that operate from seven stations within Cavan Monaghan and Louth compared to 19 in December 2020.

In 2022 it is planned that twelve new development positions (Paramedical grade) implemented into the Cavan/Monaghan area. A further ten new development positions (Paramedical grade) implemented into the North East region in 2022 (the positions will provide additional support to the Cavan/Monaghan area).

#### North Leinster by staff group

Dec 2021	WTE Dec 2019	WTE Dec 2020	WTE Nov 2021	WTE Dec 2021	WTE change since Nov 21	WTE change since Dec 20	% change since Dec 20	WTE change since Dec 19	% change since Dec 19	No. Dec 2021
<b>Overall</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>+16</b>	<b>2.7 %</b>	<b>+38</b>	<b>6.7 %</b>	<b>622</b>
Administrative/ Supervisory (V to VII)	2	3	4	4	+0	+1	45.2 %	+2	102.5 %	5
Clerical (III & IV)	5	5	5	5	+0	-0	-2.1 %	+0	4.4 %	6
<b>Management &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+0</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>14.2 %</b>	<b>+2</b>	<b>32.5 %</b>	<b>11</b>
Support	3	3	1	1	-0	-1	-51.4 %	-1	-51.2 %	2
Maintenance/ Technical	1	1				-1	-100.0 %	-1	-100.0 %	
<b>General Support</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-0</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-65.2 %</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-65.1 %</b>	<b>2</b>
Ambulance Staff	538	560	555	577	+22	+18	3.2 %	+40	7.4 %	596
Care, other	15	14	13	13	+0	-1	-5.5 %	-2	-12.7 %	13
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>+22</b>	<b>+17</b>	<b>3.0 %</b>	<b>+38</b>	<b>6.8 %</b>	<b>609</b>

\*HSE Strategic Workforce Planning & Intelligence Reports

Please find below the average response for the North Leinster region – category 1 calls (Echo and Delta)\*

	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>EAST</b>	00:15	00:15	00:16	00:19
<b>MIDLANDS</b>	00:19	00:19	00:20	00:25
<b>NORTH EAST</b>	00:19	00:18	00:19	00:23

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman  
Deputy Director, National Ambulance Service