



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director
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Ref: WM/PQ's/220802

2 August 2022

Deputy Sorca Clarke TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 41914/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of community paramedic projects per county for each of the years 2019 to 2021 and to date in 2022, in tabular form; and if there are any forthcoming pilot projects.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

In line with its strategic plan 'Vision 2020' and the implementation of Sláintecare, (2017) the NAS engaged in cross-border collaboration with partners under "Co-operation and Working Together," (CAWT) to pilot a Community Paramedic service in the Republic of Ireland. This was an EU Interreg funded initiative for the development of a new form of community-based health care in which paramedics practiced outside their customary emergency response and transport roles in ways that facilitate more appropriate use of emergency care resources and enhance access to care for patients in rural and minor urban areas.

Due to the success of this project the NAS mainstreamed the Community Paramedic service, gaining approval for funding from the Department of Health & HSE in September 2020. The service was proved to be safe and high quality for patients, delivering their care in their homes/community, where clinically appropriate.

Please see attached the positive patient outcomes, treatment at home/community, patients not needing conveyance to the Emergency Department for care and approximate cost savings arising from the NAS Community Paramedic service from October 2020 – 24th July 2022 as part of our data collated on our NAS Alternative Care Pathways:





Table 1 – Community Paramedic patient data – Oct 2020 – 24th July 2022

Running Totals – NAS Alternative Pathway Data - October 2020 to 24 th July 2022						
	Total Calls	Patient treatment in the Home/Community Numbers	ED Avoidance %	ED Attendance	ED Attendance %	Estimated Cost Savings €
Community Paramedics	5783	3303	57%	2480	43%	€644,085

Please find attached the number and location by county, of the NAS Community Paramedics from 2019 – currently in 2022 in the Table (2) below:

Table 2 – Community Paramedic Numbers & Location: 2019 - July 2022:

YEAR	COUNTY	NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PARAMEDICS (WTE)	TOTAL NUMBER PER ANNUM
2019	Cavan & Monaghan	2	2019 = 4
	Donegal	2	
2020	Cavan & Monaghan	2	2020 = 5
	Donegal	2	
	Dublin	1	
2021	Cavan & Monaghan	2	2021 = 11
	Donegal	2	
	Dublin	3	
	Cork	2	
	Limerick/Galway	2 (1 part time)	
2022	Cavan & Monaghan	1 + (1 vacant position)	2022 = 10
	Donegal	2	
	Dublin	3	
	Cork	2	
	Limerick/Galway	2 (1 part time)	

In collaboration with University College Cork (UCC), NAS College successfully delivered the first ever MSc Community Paramedic Programme on the Island of Ireland in 2020 – 2021. To enhance the governance over this new and emerging role, NAS have been working closely with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council to develop a Framework to support the Specialist Practice of Community Paramedics. The Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council have recently approved the





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Framework to support Community Paramedicine as a new role, which will require a change in the Statutory Instrument to develop a Specialist Paramedic Registry. NAS intends to offer the MSc Programme in 2023 to train and deploy more Community Paramedics into the future to expand the service and continue to improve patient access to care in their own homes/communities.

The NAS are delighted with the success of the Community Paramedic service as part of the NAS Alternative Care Pathway. We wish to acknowledge the on-going support and collaboration of all the designated GP's in all the counties who continue to work closely with the NAS Community Paramedics to provide safe and effective care in patients' homes & communities.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Deputy Director
National Ambulance Service

