



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

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23rd March 2022

Deputy Fergus O'Dowd TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ13042/22

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports of ambulances that have encountered flat tyres being forced out of commission for significant blocks of time due to the significant distance that contracted repair crews are travelling to reach the emergency vehicles following reports that an ambulance whilst on an emergency call out in Cooley, County Louth encountered a flat tyre and was decommissioned for a significant part of the day as the contracted repair crew had to travel from County Kildare to provide the assistance; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Fergus O'Dowd

Dear Deputy O'Dowd,

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.

On Monday 1st March 2022 a NAS crew and vehicle were en-route to a low acuity emergency call in Greenore, County Louth. The vehicle received a flat tyre while responding to this call. The crew contacted their manager, in line with operational procedures, who initiated a response from the contracted North East garage in Kingscourt, County Cavan. They sent a repair crew from this garage who met the crew and repaired the flat tyre. Whilst this was ongoing an alternative crew and vehicle was dispatched to the patient.

The NAS fleet has more than 600 vehicles which travel more than 2 million km a month, as such minor repairs, such as flat tyres, occur from time to time. NAS will always endeavour to work with its fleet partners to ensure any downtime of vehicles is kept to a minimum.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Deputy Director
National Ambulance Service

