



Oifig Leas – Stiúirthóir,
Seirbhís Náisiúnta Otharchairr

Áras na hAbhann, Crosbhóthar Thamhlachta,
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Ref: PQ24457/22

31st May 2022.

Mr. Michael Healy-Rae TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

Re: PQ24457/22

To ask the Minister for Health if the situation in relation to the landing of helicopters (details supplied) in County Kerry will be examined; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Minister, with regard to Medivac and the landing of helicopters, why is the situation allowed to continue now where in South Kerry for example, Portmagee, Valentia Island or Caherciveen, the nearest medivac landing location is recorded and down as Sneem football field. Surely this is ridiculous considering that we have football fields in South Kerry and other closer locations. In the interest of safety could this be looked into.

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

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 a response.

The current aero-medical services operating the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service have access to multiple landing sites within Kerry including the specific locations mentioned above. In addition, the air services also have the capability to create a temporary landing site at any GAA / sports field if and when required in order to expedite the arrival of the aero-medical services to an incident site. As a consequence, the aero-medical services are constantly updating their available landing sites in line with operational requirements.

Ultimately, the decision to land at any site is that of the pilot and this is to ensure the safety of both people on the ground and the aircraft crew.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

William Merriman
Deputy Director National Ambulance Service.

