



Oifig anStiúrthóir  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

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Ref: WM/PQ/45582

28th September 2022

Deputy Holly Cairns TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ45582/22**

To ask the Minister for Health the steps that he is taking to increase the percentage of electric or hybrid vehicles owned by his Department and state agencies and bodies under the Department's remit.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) has embraced a range of sustainable technologies focussed on fleet efficiency and the use of renewable energy to power on board systems.

NAS continues to explore technological developments in relation to vehicle propulsion and in this regard, a number of electric vehicles are on trial in a number on non-patient roles. This number is expected to grow in the coming months.

Early experience suggests that in the context of delivering emergency services throughout Ireland, currently available technologies are limited in terms of suitability for emergency ambulances, particularly in rural areas or over long distances

NAS continues to monitor developments as they emerge including the recent announcement in the UK about a hydrogen fuel cell powered ambulance. In this regard, we are in contact with a company in the UK and Ireland who are in the process of developing future technologies for alternative fuel solutions.

Original Equipment Manufacturer for Electric Vehicles for patient transport vehicles are very much in their infancy as the challenging environment in which emergency medical vehicles operate demands a risk adverse approach. A multi-disciplinary working group is being convened in relation to a holistic approach to review the pre- hospital care vehicles for the future

NAS operates a growing fleet which currently exceeds 678 vehicles and in this context, the cost of transition to renewable power sources, based on current costs, would be significantly in excess of the funding currently available to support the current fleet replacement programme.

Below is the number of electric and Hybrid vehicles within the NAS

- 3 Fully electric Response vehicles, Hyundai Kona.
- 10 PHEV response vehicles, Hyundai Tucson Plugin Hybrid
- 1 Fully Electric Incident support vehicle, Peugeot Expert Fully electric





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We also have other initiatives in place such as solar power systems & ECO run systems.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

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William Merriman  
Director of Operations

