



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Oibríochtaí
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
Bloc 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tulach Mhór,
Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

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Ref: WM/PQ/230414

03 May 2023

Deputy Michael Lowry
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ18171/23

To ask the Minister for Health his views on the ongoing issues within County Tipperary ambulance service; the steps he is taking to provide additional support to ambulance services in County Tipperary to address ambulance shortages within the county; if he will provide from January 2022 to March 2023, in tabular form, the number of ambulances and ambulance staff operational or stationed at each ambulance station in County Tipperary; the average response time to ambulance call-outs per ambulance station in County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry

PQ18172/23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide in tabular form from January 2022 to March 2023, the number of times ambulances typically stationed to operate in County Tipperary were asked to respond to ambulance call-outs outside of County Tipperary; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry

PQ18173.23

To ask the Minister for Health to provide in tabular form from January 2022 to March 2023, the number of times ambulances not typically stationed to operate in County Tipperary were asked to respond to ambulance call-outs in County Tipperary because an ambulance was not available for dispatch within County Tipperary; the average response time for ambulance call-outs in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Lowry

Dear Deputy Lowry,

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 International Best Practice, the NAS operates a dynamic deployment model which results in the closest ambulance being tasked to respond to high acuity Echo calls (Life Threatening cardiac or respiratory) or Delta calls (life threatening illness or injury other than cardiac or respiratory arrest). This call taking and dispatch function is operated by the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) which operates across two sites, Dublin and





Ballyshannon. All NAS resources are dispatched to calls across the country from the NEOC on a nearest available (to the incident) basis and not on a county boundary basis.

Response times per county are not deemed a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for the Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA), the Department of Health (DoH) or the National Ambulance Service (NAS). Therefore, reporting and publishing of response times on a county by county basis same is not a requirement. The NAS do report monthly on Echo calls (Life Threatening cardiac or respiratory) or Delta calls (life threatening illness or injury other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) on a regional basis, or on a per-ambulance station basis.

The average ambulance response times for the Mid-West Region - which includes Tipperary - since 2022 per quarter are as follows:

MID-WEST REGION	
2022	
Q1	00:23
Q2	00:24
Q3	00:24
Q4	00:28

MID-WEST REGION	
2023	
Q1	00:23
Q2	N/A
Q3	N/A
Q4	N/A

The table below indicates the number of Emergency Ambulances (EA) and WTE's assigned to stations located in Co. Tipperary.

AMBULANCE STATIONS, EMERGENCY AMBULANCES & ASSIGNED STAFF		
Name of station	No of Vehicles	No of Assigned Staff (WTE)
Cashel	2	11
Clonmel	4	20
Nenagh	3	20
Roscrea	3	11
Thurles	3	14
Tipperary	2	11

Table 1: No of EA's & WTE in Co Tipperary

The number of EA's may fluctuate due to new ambulances arriving at stations and the swap out of older vehicles. Any 2016 and 2017 registrations are being removed over the coming weeks. All 2018 will be removed later this year.





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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service

