



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

Office of the Director of Operations  
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Ref: WM/PQ/230303

Deputy Jackie Cahill,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

28 February 2023

**PQ 6502/23**

***To ask the Minister for Health the estimated cost of purchasing an ambulance and staffing it with an appropriate team of paramedics in order to provide transport services from Nenagh General Hospital to local nursing homes, to transport patients who are leaving Nenagh Hospital and are being moved to local nursing homes in north Tipperary; the estimated cost for this one-off capital expenditure; the estimated running costs of this on an annual basis thereafter; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Jackie Cahill.***

Dear Deputy Cahill,

The 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 response. This information is additional to that provided by the Minister in his additional response and relates solely to inter facility patient transfers where a clinician has determined the medical need.

The Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) set out the Inter Facility Transfer Standard

<https://www.phccit.ie/Custom/BSIDocumentSelector/Pages/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=oGsVrspmiT0dOhDFFXZvlz0q5GYO7igwzB6buxHEgeD013qEh%252bBwnpgYGEV7P6iBaIH9j3gtl91GoBfn2HXa8jFQskt1vITHQAXZzRWrfnU%252fs%252fg%252fPZHpre8grmUg3RC4N3AC5T6x%252bc2B%252bwT%252fwQY8l62aTIOZl6Vd%252fC6WUbyL9P5okOKJ%252bPQ%253d%253d> applying to inter facility transfers. In this context, emergency ambulances staffed by Paramedics are used solely to respond to high acuity 999 emergency calls and are not used for routine inter facility transfers.

Patients being transferred from Nenagh General Hospital to other healthcare facilities, other than an Emergency Department, can be undertaken by the NAS Intermediate Care Service staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians. Therefore, the current revenue costs associated with providing one additional NAS Intermediate Care on a 7 day basis (day shift only) is as follows:

Vehicle and equipment capital cost in 2022: €155,113

Vehicle running costs (maintenance, fuel, depreciation): €65,802 (per annum)

Staffing costs (2023 pay scales): €487,014

I hope this information is helpful





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Yours sincerely

William Merriman  
Director of Operations  
National Ambulance Service

