



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

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Ref: RM/PQ23-6522/3/23/03/03

28 February 2023

Deputy Rose Conway - Walsh TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 6522/23

To ask the Minister for Health the number of University of Limerick paramedic graduates that are recruited by the National Ambulance Service each year; the percentage of the NAS recruitment over the past five years who were graduates of UL, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh

PQ 6523/23

To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1180 of 18 January 2023, the reason that less than 5% of external pre-hospital emergency care council-registered qualified paramedics who applied for positions with the National Ambulance Service have been appointed, given the ongoing staffing issues at NAS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. — Rose Conway-Walsh

Dear Deputy Conway - Walsh,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

PQ 6522/23

Prior to 2021, an average of 1 University of Limerick (UL) paramedic graduate successfully applied to the HSE for a position as a registered Paramedic. In 2021 and into 2022, NAS met with UL on a number of occasions and provided feedback on the quality of applicants emerging from the programme and in particular, the “work readiness” of applicants.

Based on this feedback, UL made substantial changes to the programme and in 2022, 5 of 12 applicants to NAS successfully completed all stages of the recruitment process including qualification and driving licence checks, employment reference checks, Garda Vetting Disclosure and Occupational Health assessment.

In 2023, NAS and UL are working closely together to explore mechanisms to enable UL under graduates to complete their internship in Ireland with a view to employment with NAS, which will still be subject to the provisions of the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004

PQ 6523/23

The majority of qualified Paramedic applicants are from other EU or non EU jurisdictions and have secured professional registration through PHECC. Our experience over many years has demonstrated that candidates present with a very mixed level of competency, despite holding the relevant level of registration.





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Each registered paramedic working on behalf of the HSE must be individual privileged by the NAS Clinical Director (a PHECC requirement) to practice and treat patients.

Hence, as a responsible authority for patient safety and following the learnings from a number of incident reviews involving Paramedics who were recruited as qualified, the HSE introduced a competency assessment for all applicants for registered Paramedic positions to ensure that any applicant was capable of practicing paramedicine to an acceptable standard.

NAS also recognises that some individuals could achieve a satisfactory level of paramedic practice with some level of internship/period of adaptation support so with this in mind, we have engaged with the HSE's National Recruitment Service to explore the possibility of running a recruitment campaign for such individuals, noting that PHECC registration is one aspect of the requirements to secure public sector employment which remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

