



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

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28 February 2023

Deputy Darren O'Rourke TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 6979/23

To ask the Minister for Health the estimated full year cost of providing two extra HSE air ambulance helicopters available on a 24-7 basis. — Darren O'Rourke

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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 HSE does not currently operate any helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS) outside of day light hours as the international evidence and aviation regulation reflects the extremely high risk associated with operating helicopters at low levels during the hours of darkness.

In this context, the HSE cannot speculate on what the costs of providing such a service might be as the only way to develop a reliable estimate, from a public expenditure perspective, is to conduct a public procurement process for such a service.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

