



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: CW/PQ/230303

03 March 2023

Deputy Louise O'Reilly
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 9615/23

To ask the Minister for Health if a trade union (details supplied) will be part of any Health Service Executive negotiations on the ambulance service; what the union can do to be included in any negotiations; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Louise O'Reilly

Details Supplied: National Ambulance Service Representative Association (NASRA)

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

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.

Following a WRC facilitated process, the National Ambulance Service (NAS) and trade union partners in Unite and SIPTU, as the trade unions with negotiation rights on behalf of all National Ambulance grades worked in collaboration to redesign roles and responsibilities of staff within the NAS. This followed an independent review which produced a document titled "*Review and Examination of current EMT, Paramedic and Advanced Paramedic roles in the National Ambulance Service*" in May 2020.

The outcome of this has been a business case for change developed in partnership with Unite and SIPTU that is supported by the HSE. The HSE understands this business case can only progress through national pay talks that are expected to commence in 2023.

Furthermore, a key part of the NAS workforce planning is supporting retention. The NAS recognise that the myriad of opportunities that now exist across the HSE presents tremendous career advancement for their staff. While the HSE still retain these staff in new roles, the NAS are focussed on understanding how they can improve the working environment for existing staff. The NAS are also working to completely re-design the structure of the organisation and in doing so, create career opportunities for those who want to progress and advance.

To this end, the NAS continues to work closely with trade unions partners on key areas of concern including reducing late finishes, improving access to meal breaks, reducing the travel distance to calls, facilitating staff transfers close to home and improving rostering and workforce planning arrangements.





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I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Colette Walsh
Human Resources, Assistant National Director
National Ambulance Service

