



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross
Tallaght, Dublin, D24 XNP2

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Ref: RM/PQ23-1823/31

01 February 2023

Deputy Roisin Shortall TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ1828/23

To ask the Minister for Health the reason that a recruitment campaign (details supplied) for qualified paramedics who are registered with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council includes competency based assessments, the reason that applicants to a similar recruitment campaign for intermediate care operatives do not have to undergo competency based assessments despite both campaigns requiring candidates to be on the practitioner level PHECC register; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Roisin Shortall TD

PQ1830/23

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to reports of issues with the multiple choice question stage of a recruitment campaign (details supplied); his views on same; the engagements that he has had with the National Ambulance Service; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Roisin Shortall TD

PQ 1831/23

To ask the Minister for Health if a recruitment agency (details supplied) has been contracted to supply paramedic cover for the National Ambulance Service: if so, if he will provide details of this arrangement, the number of agency staff employed to date: the number of staff his Department intends to employ through this agency recruitment campaign; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Roisin Shortall TD

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

PQ1828/23

The Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) has established separate levels of practitioner registration. The scope of practice of each level of practitioner is significantly different with the Training and Education Standards for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) (employed as Intermediate Care Operatives) reflecting a FETAC level programme while the current Training and Education Standards for Paramedic and Advanced Paramedic reflecting a QQI Level 8 (BSc. Hon) and QQI Level 9 (MSc.) respectively.





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Almost all applicants to the HSE for the role of Intermediate Care Operative (EMT) are trained in Ireland but tend to have very limited levels of clinical practice. Hence, applicants are not recruited undergo an induction/period of adaptation to achieve competence before being assigned to patient care duties.

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. 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.

PQ1830/23

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

Hence, as the employer, the HSE is obliged to determine the competency assessment required to provide the associated assurance to the Clinical Director.

PQ1831/23

The HSE does not have a contract in place with any agency to supply Paramedics to the National Ambulance Service (NAS).

The HSE's National Recruitment Service currently has live campaigns for both Student Paramedics and PHECC registered Paramedics:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job-search/patient-and-client-care/nrs13367.html>

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/jobs/job-search/patient-and-client-care/nrs02294.html>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.





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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Morton', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Morton
National Director
National Ambulance Service

