



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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14 March 2023

Deputy Duncan Smith TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 11454/23

To ask the Minister for Health the up-to-date position on a national register for the location of defibrillators AEDs; if he is considering an app to assist in their location; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Duncan Smith

Dear Deputy Smith,

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.

Percentage survival from OHCA in 2021 was reported as 6.1%, with 178 people returning home to their families (National Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Registry, 2022). It is the aim of the multi-agency OHCA Strategy Governance Implementation Group that Ireland should achieve similar survival rates to our best performing European neighbours, who consistently achieve survival rates exceeding 10%.

The OHCA Strategy Governance Implementation Group has a specific aim to implement a NAS National AED (defibrillator) Registry which is mapped to the National Ambulance Service dispatch system, and a supporting app for dispatching first responders. Work has already begun on developing the AED Registry, with specific emphasis on ensuring the cyber safety of our national ambulance service dispatch system.

Implementation of the AED Registry and first responder app is a substantial capital and technological project and as of yet, no funding stream has been identified to enable NAS to progress implementation in 2023. Any such development will be subject to Public Procurement regulations and is likely to exceed the threshold for advertisement at EU level.

In the meantime, it is important to note that the facility to register defibrillators with the NAS already exists and defibrillators can be registered at the following link: [Community AED Registration](#). Our current solution is simple and lacks the interoperability that is needed for a fully integrated AED registry/first responder system but, in the event of cardiac arrest, it enables our emergency call takers to direct callers to defibrillators that are registered in their area.





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It is also important to note that NAS has a network of over 250 Community First Responder (CFR) Schemes, supported by our Community Engagement Team. In the event of a cardiac arrest, CFRs receive an automated text message that directs them to the scene of any cardiac arrest incident that occurs in their catchment area. For more information may I refer you to the www.becomeacfr.ie website which was developed with funding from the OHCA Strategy.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

