



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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t 01 4631624/6

Ref: RM/PQ/230526

14 June 2023

Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 25666/23

To ask the Minister for Health if the visit by representatives of the National Ambulance Service to Israel was officially sanctioned; if so, by whom and for what reason; the cost associated with the visit; if he considers such a visit to be appropriate, given the ongoing breaches of international law by Israel; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy,

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 response.

The HSE engages with the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM). Following a successful WADEM Conference hosted by Spain in 2022, NAS and representatives of Magen David Adom (MDA) (Israel's equivalent to NAS), agreed to collaborate on issues of mutual interest, in particular, disaster emergency preparedness and potential applications for EU Research projects.

In September 2022, NAS was invited to visit MDA to learn from the joint work underway between MDA and the Jordanian Red Crescent in relation to Disaster preparedness and humanitarian relief.

Following consultation with the Department of Health, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Israel, the HSE authorised a 4-day study visit to MDA in Tel Aviv for the purposes of learning about:

- Emergency Preparedness
- Volunteer Management
- Control/Dispatch Technology
- Training/Education of Paramedics
- Innovation and Research, including EU Projects
- Clinical Governance

The study visit was arranged to follow the WADEM Conference for 2023, hosted in Killarney, Ireland, and which was attended by representatives of MDA.





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Individual attendees who were authorised to participate in the study visit to MDA will in due course, submit travel and subsistence claims in line with the relevant HR Circulars on such matters.

I hope this information is helpful.

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

