



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,
Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

Ref: SK/PQ 46795/23 46796/23 46797/23

9th November 2023

Deputy Róisín Shortall TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ46795/23

To ask the Minister for Health his views on the competency assessment process for qualified paramedics by the National Ambulance Service; his views on whether the process is clear and transparent; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

PQ46796/23

To ask the Minister for Health to confirm that any competency assessments that newly appointed qualified paramedics to the National Ambulance Service undertake will be appropriately structured, so that each question can be referenced to the PHECC paramedic training standard document; if the questions cannot be referenced to the PHECC paramedic training standard document, if this will be considered suitable grounds for appeal and a re-sit of the exam; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Róisín Shortall

PQ46797/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will put in place an appropriate appeals mechanism for qualified paramedics newly appointed to the National Ambulance Service, whereby they can appeal the result of an exam; if so, if those wishing to appeal their result will be permitted to view their exam papers or their incorrect answers; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall





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Dear Deputy Shortall,

PQ46795/23

This may refer to the old competency assessment process, which following review has changed. The revised assessment process to include weeks of continuous formative assessments to assist candidates and help align them to our standards. Clinical assessments based on the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) standards also ensure candidates are competent and capable to treat patients in the pre-hospital setting. The process is clear and transparent and, most importantly robust enough to ensure the competence of those wishing to join the National Ambulance Service.

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Written questions and clinical assessments relate to the PHECC Education and Training standards of 2014, but cannot only be related to this standard as it is almost 10 years old, and due for review. Other standards apply, including references to current Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs), and relevant policies, clinical directives, procedures etc. All students should be well prepared before examinations and would have familiarity with material to be examined. An appeals process is available to all students.

PQ46797/23

An appeals process is in place for examinations, and is used for all paramedic students. That policy still applies to qualified or student paramedics.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Karl Kendellen,
General Manager, Tertiary Education
National Ambulance Service

