



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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8 May 2024

Deputy John McGuinness TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 17312/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number that applied for the position of ambulance base supervisors with the National Ambulance Service the number of applicants that had a formal interview; the number of successful candidates; the number of vacant paramedic positions throughout the organisation; the plan to fill each vacancy; the budget for the service for each of the past five years; the response time for ambulances from time of call to time of arrival at the patients location; the status of the plan to modernise and transform the service; the number of advanced paramedics currently employed in the organisation; the base to which they are attached; and the number of qualified paramedics that are currently undertaking training courses to qualify as an advanced paramedic

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

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.

Paramedic Supervisors

There has not been any recruitment campaign for some considerable time and the current supervisory structures are currently the subject of an information and consultation process with the trade unions with negotiation rights for that grade.

Paramedic Vacancies

There are currently sufficient Student Paramedics in training to fill any currently funded and expected Paramedic vacancies in 2024. The HSE' National Service Plan does 2024 not make any provision for further expansion of services in the current year.

NAS Revenue Budget

Year	Pay	Non Pay	income	Total
2024	160,904,351	70,123,494	0	231,027,845
2023	156,417,185	68,697,300	0	225,114,485
2022	164,869,833	50,651,874	-147,868	215,373,839
2021	147,760,671	54,306,707	-147,868	201,919,511
2020	135,925,905	51,866,309	-147,868	187,644,346





Response Times Performance

The HSE National Service Plan (NSP) for 2024 sets out the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for each HSE service. In relation to NAS, there are two national aggregate KPI targets for emergency calls which apply to the following call categories only:

- PURPLE (life-threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest) – Target: Respond to 75% of such calls within 18 minutes and 59 seconds
- RED (life-threatening illness or injury, other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) - Target: Respond to 45% of such calls within 18 minutes and 59 seconds

These targets are national aggregate targets only and are not measured or reported on a county basis. 999 calls which are not categorised as PURPLE or RED are not deemed to be emergency calls and therefore, there are no response times targets for such calls.

At the end of Month 3, 2024, NAS are currently achieving both targets as set out in the NSP 2024.

NAS Organisational Re-Design Programme

This programme commenced in 2022 and is currently 60% complete. While the programme was originally planned for completion in 2025, there has not been any funding allocated in 2024, hence, there is no definitive date for completion until such time as the budget for 2025 has been allocated.

Advanced Paramedic

Please note that Advanced Paramedic is a level of clinical practice, i.e. registered as an Advanced Paramedic with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). There is no specific employment grade within the HSE called Advanced Paramedic and hence, a variety of grades of staff may be registered as an Advanced Paramedic with PHECC.

There are currently 374 HSE staff working in the NAS who are currently registered as an Advanced Paramedic with PHECC

2016	158*
2019	254*
2021	302*
2024	374**

**estimate based on training profile*

***number confirmed for Internal Audit of payment of Advanced Paramedic allowance*

In line with the changing needs of our patients, and noting the critical mass of Advanced Paramedics now available, NAS continues to keep under review, ongoing educational priorities. It has become increasingly clear, that in the context of an ageing population with the prevalence of more chronic disease, diversification of skill sets is required to meet the growing needs of our patients into the future.





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PHECC as the professional regulator and the standards authority in this area has published a Community Paramedic Framework to guide planning, implementation, delivery and review of more community paramedic orientated services throughout Ireland.

This Community Paramedic Framework is available for review at:
<https://www.phecit.ie/Custom/BSIDocumentSelector/Pages/DocumentViewer.aspx?id=oGsVrspmiT0dOhDFFXZvlz0q5GYO7igwzB6buxHEgeDq00kIOJxrAiwRq8WilA7iQpuh0JuuyxLZ%252fgogHj9YAdVJBi%252feljLQQQejAdgErxHc1gOlnYuCfGcZtM%252fFZTDuGELCe04hOpwR2WpMNptaZMMI%252biPM01ITiSTAjYn0UiWidbzfXGJzNluN5VUHbqlsRWHtJZQ5aTg%253d>

Community Paramedicine is intended to ensure that NAS can increasingly bring the right care to the right patient in the right place and at the right time rather than the traditional model of conveying every patient to an Emergency Department.

In the context of available educational capacity, NAS is currently prioritising support for staff to undertake a Masters in Specialist Paramedic Practice. To date, two groups of Paramedics (approx. 18 in total) have commenced this programme with the first group expected to graduate in September 2025. Consequently, there are no plans to continue Advanced Paramedic training at this time.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

