



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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8th May 2024

Deputy Holly Cairns TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 24/17350

To ask the Minister for Health the current ambulance response times across west Cork; the number of ambulances available in the area; and the number of paramedics assigned to the area. — Holly Cairns

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

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 in 2024 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 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.

The number of ambulances ordinarily based at each location in West Cork is set out in the table below:

The number of ambulances that are ordinarily based at each NAS location (West Cork):

	Day	Night
Bantry Emergency Ambulance	1	1
Bantry Intermediate Care Vehicle	1	-
Bantry Rapid Response Vehicle (Dunmanway)	1	-
Castletownbere Emergency Ambulance	1	1
Skibbereen Emergency Ambulance	1	1
Clonakilty Emergency Ambulance	1	1





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The current approved rostering/relief requirements for the South West area 245.7 WTEs. However, due to the success of recruitment and education in recent years, and our commitment to assign new staff to an Ambulance Station within 45km of their home address, there are currently 267 WTEs in the South West area 267 WTEs

As these additional staff are funded through approved vacancies in other areas, no further vacancies can be filled until staffing levels return to the approved level of 245.7 WTEs.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

