



Oifig anStiúrthóir  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar  
Thamlachta, Tamhlacht,  
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

Office of the Director  
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross  
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Ref: RM/PQ24-9007/8/9/240306

6 March 2024

Deputy Claire Kerrane TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 9007/24**

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of advanced paramedics working in the National Ambulance Service***

**PQ 9008/24**

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of advanced paramedics working in the National Ambulance Service in 2016, 2019, 2021 and 2024.***

**PQ 9009/24**

***To ask the Minister for Health to advise when the National Ambulance Service (NAS) stopped training advanced paramedics; the rationale for this decision; if there was engagement with the Minister on this decision; if the NAS is aware that this decision means paramedics cannot upskill via the training which was available, and now cannot progress and advance to this level; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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.

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.

**PQ 9007/24**

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

**PQ 9008/24**

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

\*estimate based on training profile

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





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## PQ 9009/24

In line with the changing needs of our patients, and noting the critical mass of Advanced Paramedics now available, NAS has reviewed the ongoing requirement to continue Advanced Paramedic training given the considerable cost per candidate. It has become increasingly clear that in the context of an ageing population with the prevalence of more chronic disease, that a changing skill set is required to meet the growing needs of our patients into the future.

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=oGsVrspmiT0dOhDFFXZvlz0q5GYO7igwzB6buxHEgeDq00klOJxrAiwRg8WilA7iQpuh0JuuyxLZ%252fgoqHj9YAdvJBi%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 current traditional model of conveying every patient to an Emergency Department.

In the context of a fixed educational capacity, NAS suspended Advanced Paramedic training in early 2023 in favour of supporting staff to undertake a Masters in Specialist Paramedic Practice. To date, three groups of Paramedics has commenced this programme with the first group expected to graduate in September 2025.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton  
Director  
National Ambulance Service

