



Oifig anStiúrthóir  
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

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16 July 2024

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 27980/24**

***To ask the Minister for Health the number of advanced paramedics currently serving in Clare; if there are plans to expand, maintain or reduce advanced paramedic recruitment; the number shifts in the last twelve months have not had an advanced paramedic serving on them in spite of the Government's promise to maintain 24-7 advanced paramedic presence when closing Ennis Hospital; and if he will make a statement on the matter.***

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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.

There are currently 21 staff across a number of grades who are currently Privileged (Authorised) to Practice as an Advanced Paramedic in Co. Clare.

There are no plans to expand, maintain or reduce advanced paramedic recruitment in 2024. Where a staff member retires, leaves or seeks promotion, any subsequent vacancy is filled in the normal manner, subject to the HSE Employment Controls that may be in place at the time of the vacancy.

Given the dynamic impact of short notice absenteeism on shift cover arrangements, and the availability of staff to work overtime, it is not possible to retrospectively track which shifts had any staff grade with Advanced Paramedic training on duty.

Therefore, the specific information you have requested regarding shifts is not available as there is no operational reason for the collection of such information and there are no clerical administrative staff in place to facilitate the production on such reports.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton  
Director  
National Ambulance Service

