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14th April 2025

Deputy Cathal Crowe,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2.

PQ 15279/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulances available, on average, daily in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

PQ 15280/25

To ask the Minister for Health the average ambulance response times to "PURPLE" calls (life-threatening) in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

PQ 15281/25

To ask the Minister for Health the average ambulance response times to "RED" calls (potentially life-threatening) in County Clare between 1 March 2024 and 1 March 2025; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

The NAS operates a dynamic model of ambulance deployment. This is in line with international best practice and allows the NAS to prioritise resource allocation to the highest acuity calls that require an immediate emergency response. Dynamic deployment also allows the NAS to categorise non-serious or non-life-threatening calls, and to provide a resource appropriate to the patient's clinical need. This does mean that at particularly busy periods lower acuity calls will be liable to experience a longer wait for an ambulance. This has become more of a challenge in recent years with the continuous growth in activity volume. NAS also operates under the HSE's 'Performance Accountability Framework', which sets out the means by which the service is held to account for its performance in relation to access to services and the quality and safety of those services.

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County Clare is part of the HSE Midwest Regional Health Area (RHA). The number of ambulances available, on average in the Midwest region is as follows:



DAY	AVERAGE NO OF EA'S (DAY)	AVERAGE NO OF EA'S (NIGHT)
Monday	16	13
Tuesday	15	12
Wednesday	15	12
Thursday	16	12
Friday	14	13
Saturday	13	14
Sunday	13	13

The National Ambulance Service serves the Midwest through a highly skilled workforce, a fleet consisting of emergency ambulances, intermediate care vehicles, and rapid response vehicles, as well as the HEMS aeromedical service and the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre. The Midwest also has a large number of alternative care pathways, including, but not limited to, Community Paramedic, Pathfinder, and the Alternative Prehospital Pathway. These resources serve the people of the Midwest, offering a multitude of alternative pathways for care.

PQ15280/25

The NAS report monthly on PURPLE (Echo) and RED (Delta) call activity, category AS1 (life threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest or life threatening other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) calls. Response times per county or CHO are not deemed a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for the Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA), the Department of Health (DoH) or the National Ambulance Service. Therefore, reporting and publishing of response times on a county by county or CHO basis is not a requirement.

Average Response times to "PURPLE" calls for the RHA Mid West to date in 2025 are as follows:

MONTH - 2025	RESPONSE RATE
January	63%
February	75%

PQ15281/25

Average Response times to "RED" calls for the RHA Mid West from 01 March 2024 to 01 March 2025 are as follows:

Red < 19 Mins	RESPONSE RATE
01 Mar 24 – 01 Mar 25	48.23%

I trust the information provided is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Niall Murray
General Manager Area Operations NAS HSE MW