



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross
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Ref: RM/PQ25/16008-120/25/04/15

15 April 2025

Deputy Catherine Callaghan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ25/16008

**295. To ask the Minister for Health the current ratio of ambulances and staff to the population in the RHA C region; when the last survey was conducted to assess this ratio; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [16008/25]*

PQ25/16120

**309. To ask the Minister for Health the plans in place to address ambulance delays more broadly; the expected timelines for these changes; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Catherine Callaghan. [16120/25]*

Dear Deputy Callaghan,

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.

There is no particular ratio of ambulances and staff to population in any part of Ireland and the capacity required to service demand is subject to a complex range of factors including funding, employment controls, geography, demography, demand, availability of wider health services, overall journey times, etc.

The most recent Demand versus Capacity Analysis, i.e. the normal mechanism by which ambulance services in most jurisdictions assess the need for additional capacity, was last completed in 2022 with the previous iteration completed in 2015.

The most recent analysis identified the need for the NAS workforce to grow by 2,579 WTEs by 2028, with an immediate deficit of 1,080 staff in 2022.

This requirement is a matter of public record https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_health/submissions/2023/2023-02-22_opening-statement-robert-morton-director-national-ambulance-service-nas_en.pdf following the development of a NAS Workforce Plan covering the period 2022 to 2028.

In terms of progress, the WTE Control Limit for NAS in 2024 was 2,321 WTE which represented a growth of almost 400 WTE since 2019. The WTE Control Limit for December 2025 is expected to be 2,655 representing a growth of almost 600 WTE since 2019. This includes an additional 136 WTE to convert overtime working hours to full time jobs, thus reducing the dependency on overtime working and improving staff wellbeing.





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I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

