



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Oibríochtaí
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
Bloc 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tulach Mhór,
Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

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RB/PQ17253/25

24th April 2025

Deputy Eoghan Kenny TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ17253/25

To ask the Minister for Health how many ambulances have had to make calls to Cobh, County Cork, over the last three years, and what the response time was; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Eoghan Kenny

Dear Deputy Kenny

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 response.

In response to your query re Call-outs Cobh, Co. Cork, 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 (NAS). Therefore, reporting and publishing of response times on a county by county or CHO basis is not a requirement.

In 2025, the HSE National Service Plan set national aggregate Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets for emergency calls as follows:

- PURPLE (Echo, life-threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest) (75% in 18 minutes, 59 seconds)
- RED (Delta, life-threatening illness or injury, other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) (45% in 18 minutes, 59 seconds)

There are no response time targets for 999 calls that are neither life-threatening nor potentially life threatening. Hence during busy periods, patients triaged as non-serious or non-life threatening can and do unfortunately experience delays in our response.





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Month	PURPLE Response Time	TARGET - PURPLE	RED Response Time	TARGET - RED
Jan 25	76%	75%	42%	45%
Feb 25	67%	75%	48%	45%
Mar 25	66%	75%	51%	45%

Table 1: Response times for SouthWest 2025

Data is reported per RHA since January 2025. Table 1 gives you the data for the RHA South West for 2025 to date.

Prior to this, records were kept for Divisions - Co. Cork was covered in the Southern Region, which included the South East and South West areas. Table 2 below gives the response rates for the Southern Division for the year 2024.

Month	PURPLE Response Time	TARGET - PURPLE	RED Response Time	TARGET - RED
Jan 24	73%	75%	45%	45%
Feb 24	77%	75%	45%	45%
Mar 24	72%	75%	44%	45%
Apr 24	76%	75%	45%	45%
May 24	68%	75%	43%	45%
Jun 24	66%	75%	41%	45%
Jul 24	64%	75%	40%	45%
Aug 24	69%	75%	43%	45%
Sep 24	68%	75%	41%	45%
Oct 24	68%	75%	43%	45%
Nov 24	67%	75%	40%	45%
Dec 24	63%	75%	37%	45%

Table 2: Response times for Southern Division 2024

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service

