



**Bainisteoir Ginearálta Ceantar Oibriúcháin
Bhaile Átha Cliath Oirthuaisceart**
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Halla an Fhionnuisce, Ospidéal Naomh Muire,
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Baile Átha Cliath D20 CK33

**General Manager Area Operations
Dublin North East**
National Ambulance Service, Health
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BMcG/PQs/18127-28

28th April 2025

Deputy Matt Carthy TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 18127/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulances and ambulance personnel that are based in Monaghan and Castleblayney stations respectively and the corresponding figures for April 2019, April 2020, April 2021, April 2022, April 2023 and April 2024, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Matt Carthy

PQ 18128/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulance call-outs in County Monaghan, for each month since January 2020, and the average arrival time for each month, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter-Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy

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.

Staffing in NAS Dublin & North East

NAS is one of the State's Principal Emergency Services (PES) serving the population of Ireland, i.e., over five million people. An independent demand and capacity analysis conducted in 2022, projected 999 activity to increase by up to 107% over the 10-year period from 2017 to 2027.

Demand via the 999 service has increased by 25% nationally since 2019, with growth in 2024 up by 9% on 2023. The need for additional capacity is a matter of public record

https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/committee_of_public_accounts/2021-09-23/3/, whereby it was confirmed by the HSE (CEO and COO) in September 2021, that NAS had a then capacity deficit of 90 emergency ambulance crews daily (1,080 WTE).

The matter was the subject of further public record in February 2023

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 finalisation of a NAS Workforce Plan 2022-2028 in June





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2022, underpinned by an independent demand and capacity analysis, which identified the need for considerable growth in the workforce across the country, both now and into the future (2,579 additional WTE by 2028).

The HSE Pay and Numbers Strategy for 2024 set the WTE Ceiling for NAS at 2,321 WTE which represents a growth of almost 300 WTE since 2019.

In comparison to NAS, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust has 4,079 WTE <https://senedd.wales/media/kradakaee/gen-ld16576-e.pdf> to serve 3.1m people (2021 Census), while the Scottish Ambulance Service has 5,837 WTE <https://www.scottishambulance.com/publications/annual-report-and-accounts/> to serve 5.4m people (2022 Census).

Currently, Monaghan Ambulance Station has an establishment for 30 Paramedics, but an effective strength in station of 21. Castleblayney Ambulance Station has an establishment for 13 Paramedics, but an effective strength in station of 10. The number of ambulances assigned to each station is not fixed. The NAS does not maintain historical records of staff numbers or vehicles.

Difficulties recruiting staff in County Monaghan has prevented the NAS from filling the remaining positions in each of the stations above. To address these shortfalls, and in the face of ever growing demand for our services, the NAS has rostered staff based in other stations within the region, which are above their establishment of staff, to provide an increased level of cover to the affected stations on a 24 hour basis. This is in alignment with the NAS' model of dynamic ambulance deployment, which is informed by international best practice and allows the NAS to prioritise resource allocation to the highest acuity calls that require an immediate emergency response. Under this model, the closest available resource will be assigned to a call based on clinical need, irrespective of county boundaries. 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. It is also important to state there is normally a degree of variation between the number of NAS resources rostered for duty and the number of resources deployed to an area on any given day for various reasons including vacancies, sick leave, various other forms of leave and secondments.

While the rostering of staff from other stations in the area to cover gaps in the roster in Monaghan and Castleblayney is not ideal, overall performance across the Health Region has increased over the last 6 months. NAS is committed to promoting paramedicine as an exciting and well paid career path to the people of Cavan and Monaghan with the purpose of filling vacant position numbers from within 45 km of each station over the coming year.

NAS continue to seek additional New Service Development posts through the HSE Estimates process in order to increase its' workforce to serve the growing population for Co. Monaghan, the Dublin & North East Region and Nationally.





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Co. Monaghan call-outs

In response to your query regarding call-outs in Co. Monaghan, 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. The number of ambulance calls, and response times per county 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 call volume and response times on a county by county 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.

During 2024 the RHA Dublin and North East was reported as part of the “North Leinster Division”. Response times for this division for 2024 are below:

Month	PURPLE Response Time	TARGET PURPLE TIME	RED Response Time	TARGET RED TIME
Jan 24	83%	75%	50%	45%
Feb 24	77%	75%	48%	45%
Mar 24	80%	75%	48%	45%
Apr 24	80%	75%	50%	45%
May 24	74%	75%	48%	45%
Jun 24	79%	75%	47%	45%
Jul 24	79%	75%	50%	45%
Aug 24	76%	75%	49%	45%
Sep 24	80%	75%	48%	45%
Oct 24	74%	75%	48%	45%
Nov 24	76%	75%	46%	45%
Dec 24	75%	75%	41%	45%

Table 2: Response times for North Leinster Region 2024

Since January 2025 data is reported as per RHA Area. Table 3 below gives the data for the Dublin & North East Region for the first quarter of 2025:





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Month	PURPLE Response Time	TARGET PURPLE TIME	RED Response Time	TARGET RED TIME
Jan 25	79%	75%	44%	45%
Feb 25	75%	75%	51%	45%
Mar 25	72%	75%	52%	45%

Table 3: Response times for Dublin & North East 2025 to date

The NAS continues to work hard to deliver the highest standard of service expected from our organisation. NAS intend to continue to grow to meet and exceed current performance levels in the face of ever increasing demand.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan McGovern
General Manager,
Operations Dublin North East
National Ambulance Service

