



**Oifig an Stiúrtóra Oibríochtaí
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta**
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Ref: JJMcG/PQ18551/25

Deputy Martin Daly,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

14th May 2025

PQ18551/25

To ask the Minister for Health the current number of advanced paramedics serving County Roscommon, including any recent reductions in staffing levels; and what measures are being taken to address any shortfall and ensure adequate emergency medical coverage in the region. -Martin Daly

Dear Deputy Daly

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 response.

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 and be privileged to practice on behalf of the HSE.

There are currently over 400 HSE staff working in the NAS who are currently registered as an Advanced Paramedic with PHECC. Most of these have been educated through NAS, however, a growing number are direct entry staff who already hold PHECC registration as an Advanced Paramedic. As the grade of Advanced Paramedic does not exist there are no vacancies at this level.

In relation to Advanced Paramedic training, the MSc. In Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) is run nationally in conjunction with University College Cork (UCC). 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).





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Most of this cohort have been educated through NAS, however, a number recruited already held PHECC registration as an Advanced Paramedic.

The HSE has informed the representative trade unions that there is a need to strengthen the deployment of existing staff with specialist skills to match patient requirements before any consideration can be given to increasing the number of staff with such training.

The work to do this is encompassed within a broader pay dispute, which is the subject of a WRC facilitated conciliation process, currently underway.

In the meantime, NAS has prioritised investment in an MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Community), again run nationally in conjunction with UCC. In excess of 20 Students in situ in 2025 with up to 24 Students expected to commence the course in 2025.

Where the HSE National Service Plan 2026 makes provision for an MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) programme, advertisement would occur with any start date expected to commence in January 2026. A separate privileging programme for paramedics is also being run by the end of May 2025.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John J McGowan
General Manager
National Ambulance Service

