



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

Office of the Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service
Block 4, Central Business Park,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly R35 FH59

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 057 9357696
e william.merriman@hse.ie

RB/PQ/19468-70

Deputy Thomas Gould
TD Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

14th May 2025

PQ19468/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulances rostered on the last Friday in each of the past six months by night and day shift respectively, in Cork city, in tabular form. -Thomas Gould

PQ19469/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of staff rostered specifically to St. Mary's campus for ambulance services on the last Friday of each of the past six months, by night and day shift respectively, in tabular form. -Thomas Gould

PQ19470/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulances rostered on a given day in March 2005, 2015 and 2025, by night and day shift respectively, in Cork city, in tabular form. -Thomas Gould

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

PQ19468

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 patients' clinical need. This does mean that at particularly busy periods lower acuity calls will be liable to experience a longer wait for an ambulance.





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In Cork City the following resources are in place:

- On a Friday day shift, the NAS provides 168 hrs of service – this equates to 7 Emergency Ambulances (EA) which each have 2 person team.
- On a Friday night shift, the NAS provides 88 hrs of service – this equates to 4 EA's which each have 2 person team.

PQ19469

I refer you to PQ 14360/25 submitted on 08.04.2025, which outlines the use of St. Marys Campus as an Emergency Deployment Point (EDP). The EDP is not where a resource commences a shift, but can be located to this point during a shift as tasked.

PQ19470

By way of context, 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% 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 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).

In comparison to NAS, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust has 4,079 WTE <https://senedd.wales/media/kradakae/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).

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.

The rostered hours of service per day for Cork City are detailed below:

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
Days	7	6	7	6	7	5	5
Nights	4	4	4	4	4	4	4





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e william.merriman@hse.ie

Yours sincerely,

Rob Moriarty
General Manager NAS
RHAD
(Cork & Kerry) Tel:
087 464 7930
Email: rob.moriarty@hse.ie

