



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

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Ref: JJMcG/PQ21123/25

Deputy John Connolly
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

14th May 2025

PQ21123/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE National Ambulance Service will provide an ambulance service on Inis Meáin, Aran Islands; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -John Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly

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.

The National Ambulance Service sought funding in 2023 through the Multi-Annual Integrated Urgent and Emergency Care Delivery Plan Saolta, CHO 1, CH West, PH and NAS process - which was the only route for new funding – to progress an ambulance service on the islands. No funding was received through this route.

The NAS performs a significant amount of work to ensure appropriate governance and safety when deploying an ambulance. To this end, the NAS requires recurrent investment in terms of staff in the NAS College, operational staff who would work with the island volunteers, and some short-term funding for procurement and fleet staff to organise the build, fit-out, and commissioning of the vehicles.

Through having recently refreshed the vehicles on Inis Mór and Árainn Mhór, NAS have seen how much additional support is required by the volunteers on the islands. While NAS has been able to deploy these vehicles within existing resources it will not be possible to deploy anymore vehicles without the investment outlined above. In addition, further discussions will be needed with the States Claims Agency regarding rolling out any more vehicles as the arrangement on Inis Mór and Árainn Mhór was allowed to continue due to the historical presence on these islands of a vehicle.

As above, the investment required to provide an ambulance is considerable. There is no provision made for this in the HSE National Service Plan (NSP) for 2025.





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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John J McGowan
General Manager
National Ambulance Service

