



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross
Tallaght, Dublin, D24 XNP2

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

Ref: RM/PQ25/3289-91/25/02/13

13 February 2025

Deputy Sinead Gibney TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ25/3289

To ask the Minister for Health the number of advanced paramedics on call each day between September 2024 and December 2024, by CHO, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ25/3290

To ask the Minister for Health the number of advanced paramedics on call each day between September 2024 and December 2024 in CHO 6, by local health area, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ25/3291

To ask the Minister for Health the steps being taken to address the shortage of paramedics and advanced paramedics in the health service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Gibney,

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 above, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

PQ25/3289

NAS operational management arrangements are not aligned to the former CHO boundaries.

In relation to the specific information you have requested, there is no service plan or operational reason for the creation of such reports. In the context of the impact of the Recruitment Pause in 2023 and the employment ceiling arising from the HSE' Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024, there are no clerical administrative staff available to undertake this work.

PQ25/3290

NAS operational management arrangements are not aligned to the former CHO boundaries.

In relation to the specific information you have requested, there is no service plan or operational reason for the creation of such reports. In the context of the impact of the Recruitment Pause in 2023 and the employment ceiling arising from the HSE' Pay and Numbers Strategy 2024, there are no clerical administrative staff available to undertake this work.





Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross
Tallaght, Dublin, D24 XNP2

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

PQ25/3291

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 HSE National Service Plan for 2025 does make part year provision for additional staffing across a range of services in 2025. In the case of Student Paramedics, recruitment is, subject to employment controls in place at any point in time, expected to occur in the second half of 2025 with a view to commencing the BSc. (Hon) in Paramedic Studies in January 2026.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

