



Ref: RM/PQ25/4111-2/25/02/18

18 February 2025

Deputy Ruairi Ó Murchú TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ25/4111

To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware that the National Ambulance Service is not training or hiring advanced paramedics (APs), that the last internal recruitment was run in 2021, with the last training course run in 2023; if there are plans for more AP training and recruitment this year; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

PQ25/4112

To ask the Minister for Health to outline the healthcare areas where there are currently no advanced paramedics working for the National Ambulance Service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

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 Health for response.

PQ25/4111

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).

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

2016	158*
2019	254*
2021	302*
2024	374**
2025	417**

**estimate based on training profile*

***number confirmed for Internal Audit of payment of Advanced Paramedic allowance*





Oifig anStiúrthóir
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Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
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A recent analysis of Advanced Paramedic deployment has identified that while the number of patient contacts has increased, the level of patient benefit is not commensurate with the level of investment.

The cost of Advanced Paramedic education is significant with staff historically receiving an allowance equivalent in excess of 20% additional pay, resulting in considerable competition for course places.

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 are expected to graduate in 2025 with up to 24 Students expected to commence in 2025. These opportunities are advertised nationally for all staff to apply for.

Pending the resolution of matters before the WRC, there is no provision within the HSE' National Service Plan 2025, to commence an MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) programme in 2025.

Where the HSE National Service Plan 2026 makes provision for an MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) programme, advertisement would only occur in 2026 with any start date expected to commence in September 2026.

PQ25/4112

There are HSE employees in each of the 6 HSE Health Regions registered as Advanced Paramedics with PHECC and privileged to practice on behalf of the HSE by the Clinical Director.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

