



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

Ref: RM/PQ25/7492-3/25/03/10

10 March 2025

Deputy Barry Ward TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ25/7492**

*\*885. To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been drawn to concerns related to the cessation of advanced paramedic training courses operated by the National Ambulance Service; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [7492/25]*

**PQ25/7493**

*\*886. To ask the Minister for Health if her attention has been drawn to concerns related to low level of recruitment of advanced paramedics; the actions she will take to address these concerns; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Barry Ward. [7493/25]*

Dear Deputy Ward,

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.

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.

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

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.

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.





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

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.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton  
Director  
National Ambulance Service

