



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

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RM/PQ30893/25

26 June 2025

Deputy Michael Cahill
TD Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 30893/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she will prioritise the provision of an ambulance base in Killorglin, County Kerry; if she will accept that Killorglin town and the mid-Kerry region is a vast, populated area to be without an ambulance base, an area where the population increases dramatically during the summer period, with visitors to the region and to well-known festivals such as the Puck Fair in Killorglin, the Fleadh Cheoil in Milltown, Sea Fest in Cromane, the Glencar Cattle Show, and so on, not forgetting the hugely popular beach at Rossbeigh and the world-famous Gap of Dunloe, Beaufort; if she will now accept that the provision of an ambulance base in Killorglin covering the vast mid-Kerry region is absolutely critical and an absolute priority for County Kerry; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Cahill

PQ30967/25

To ask the Minister for Health if Killorglin town in mid-Kerry will be considered as an ambulance base location to more effectively serve the town and surrounding district; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Michael Cahill

Dear Deputy Cahill

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for response.

Owing to the similarity in requests, I will provide a single response which will address your overall query.

I wish to thank you for your correspondence and for highlighting the population surge and associated pressures on emergency services in South Kerry during the busy summer period. I fully recognise and welcome your observations regarding the need to enhance ambulance coverage in the Killorglin area.

The key challenge for the National Ambulance Service remains the development of sustainable resourcing within the current approved staffing levels while remaining within the financial budget in the NAS South West region.





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To support focused investment and more efficient deployment, we undertook a detailed review of NAS operational activity for 2024. This analysis confirmed a clear service need on the northern side of the Iveragh Peninsula, and specifically demonstrated that a presence in Killorglin would significantly improve travel times along the N70 corridor—particularly where Emergency Ambulance (EA) coverage is diminished during the seasonal surge.

While it is not within my current means to establish a permanent ambulance station in Killorglin in the short term, I am committed to enhancing local responsiveness. As such, I will allocate a Patient Transporting Resource from our Intermediate Care Service to operate from a Deployment Point in the town between 08:00 and 20:00 as resources allow. Although we have not yet sourced a suitable HSE facility, I have written to the Defence Forces requesting use of their premises in Killorglin, which would enable service delivery to commence from 18th August.

In parallel, I have submitted a funding case as part of the Estimates Process for 2026, for six additional paramedic staff at Killarney Ambulance Base to support the introduction of a second EA on a daytime rota. This additional capacity in Killarney will significantly strengthen our ability to meet operational demand across the broader South Kerry region, including Killorglin.

Please be assured that ambulance response times in South Kerry remain a priority, and all available operational levers are being mobilised to address current service gaps.

Your continued support in advocating for the necessary funding at the political level, particularly in relation to the proposed expansion at Killarney, would be most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Moriarty
General Manager
National Ambulance Service





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