



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

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21 March 2025

Deputy Thomas Gould TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ25/10197**

*128. To ask the Minister for Health the reason no advanced paramedic has been trained since 2019; and if she is aware that paramedics working in the National Ambulance Service do not receive a telephone allowance. — Thomas Gould. [10197/25]*

Dear Deputy Gould,

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

**Advanced Paramedic**

Advanced Paramedic training, the MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) is run nationally in conjunction with University College Cork (UCC). Advanced Paramedic is a level of clinical practice, i.e. registered as an Advanced Paramedic with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).

Advanced Paramedic is a level of professional registration, regulated by the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC)

[https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Home/PHECC/\\_Default.aspx?hkey=0f1809e6-e621-4dd2-aa1f-b956995802d7](https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Home/PHECC/_Default.aspx?hkey=0f1809e6-e621-4dd2-aa1f-b956995802d7)

There is no specific employment grade within the HSE called Advanced Paramedic; hence, a variety of grades of staff may be registered as Advanced Paramedic with PHECC and be privileged to practice on behalf of the HSE.

Over 400 HSE staff working in the NAS are registered as Advanced Paramedics with PHECC. Most of them have been educated through NAS.

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. The table below highlights the limited growth in patient contacts for PURPLE (highest priority) calls despite the growth in the numbers and cost of Advanced Paramedic training.





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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, which has been underway for a considerable period of time.

Community Paramedics provide interventions not within the scope of practice of either Paramedics or Advanced Paramedics. In particular, the ability to make decision about treating patients at home and reducing the need for conveyance to an ED represents a small but growing contribution to the HSE's overall response to leveraging community resources to treat patients at home.

Therefore, noting the current capacity of NAS Educational resources, NAS has prioritised available investment in a 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 or available educational capacity, to commence a specific MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) programme in 2025.

Formal approval (Commissioning) is expected for new service development posts, funding for which is expected to take effect from July 2025 with a view to full-year funding effect in 2026. Some of these posts will enable NAS to expand educational capacity going into 2026 thus enabling NAS to run two MSc. programmes in the same year.

Progress on addressing the deployment of Advanced Paramedics also remains dependent on progress on a number of pay related matters, which are currently the subject of a WRC Conciliation process.

Part-year funding in 2025 is expected to facilitate up to 24 places on an MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Community), commencing in September 2025. Subject to the HSE National Service Plan 2026, full-year funding in 2026 is expected to facilitate up to 24 places on an MSc. in Specialist Paramedic Practice (Advanced) programme in September 2026.

Recruitment in 2025 and 2026 will not commence until such time as formal approval (Commissioning) to proceed has been received in each respective year.

### **Telephone Allowance**

The current Post Specific requirements for persons seeking employment as a Paramedic include the following provision:





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- You will be required to have a mobile telephone or approved item of communications equipment for urgent or necessary calls/contact during working hours

In this context, the HSE does not provide telephones or a telephone allowance with most mobile providers offering plans which do not charge for receiving or making phone calls.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton  
Director  
National Ambulance Service

