



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

Office of the Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service
Block 4, Central Business Park,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly R35 FH59

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)
t 057 9357696
e william.merriman@hse.ie

JJMcG/PQ22811/25

21st May 2025

Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ22811/25

To ask the Minister for Health if she is aware of the lack of appropriate transport for patients on Clare Island; if she is aware that when a patient needs to be transported to the helipad or lifeboat this is often by way of a farm or builders' van; the plans in place to provide an ambulance service for the island; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Rose Conway-Walsh

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh

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

The National Ambulance Service sought funding in 2023 through the Multi-Annual Integrated Urgent and Emergency Care Delivery Plan Saolta, CHO 1, CH West, PH and NAS process - which was the only route for new funding – to progress an ambulance service on the islands. No funding was received through this route.

The NAS performs a significant amount of work to ensure appropriate governance and safety when deploying an ambulance. To this end, the NAS requires recurrent investment in terms of staff in the NAS College, operational staff who would work with the island volunteers, and some short-term funding for procurement and fleet staff to organise the build, fit-out, and commissioning of the vehicles. Through having recently refreshed the vehicles on Inis Mór and Árainn Mhór, NAS have seen how much additional support is required by the volunteers on the islands.

As above, the investment required to provide an ambulance is considerable. There is no provision made for this in the HSE National Service Plan (NSP) for 2025.





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

Office of the Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service
Block 4, Central Business Park,
Tullamore ,
Co. Offaly R35 FH59

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

t 057 9357696

e william.merriman@hse.ie

Yours sincerely

John J McGowan
General Manager
National Ambulance Service

