



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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Ref: RM/PQ25/24024/2025/05/22

27 May 2025

Deputy Tony McCormack TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 24024/25

172. To ask the Minister for Health the reason the midlands region, including County Offaly, has fewer ambulance resources now than it did 25 years ago; if there are plans to review the level of ambulance service provision in the region to ensure timely emergency response; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Tony McCormack. [24024/25]

Dear Deputy McCormack,

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 Health for response.

In 2000 (25 Years ago), the then Midland Health Board did not have:

- A full 24/7 On Duty system (On Call arrangements still in place)
- A 24/7 Ambulance Station in Edenderry
- A 24/7 Ambulance Station in Birr
- An Intermediate Care Service
- Access to the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)
- Community Paramedics in Longford, Birr and Athlone
- Any Registered Paramedics or Advanced Paramedics (EMTs only in 2000)
- Newly constructed Ambulance Stations in Tullamore, Longford, Mullingar and Edenderry
- Secondary Triage of low acuity 999 calls through the NEOC Clinical Hub
- Emergency Ambulance fleet with an average age profile of 2.6 Years
- Emergency Ambulances equipped with the capability to perform 12 Lead ECG at the scene
- Appropriate Access Pathways for all patients experiencing heart attack, trauma or stroke to the most appropriate facility capable of meeting their needs.
- NAS affiliated Community First Responder Schemes

The most recent Demand versus Capacity Analysis, i.e. the normal mechanism by which ambulance services in most jurisdictions assess the need for additional capacity, was last completed in 2022 with the previous iteration completed in 2015.





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The most recent analysis identified the need for the NAS workforce to grow by 2,579 WTEs by 2028, with an immediate deficit of 1,080 staff in 2022.

This requirement is a matter of public record https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/33/joint_committee_on_health/submissions/2023/2023-02-22_opening-statement-robert-morton-director-national-ambulance-service-nas_en.pdf following the development of a NAS Workforce Plan covering the period 2022 to 2028.

In terms of progress, the WTE Control Limit for NAS in 2024 was 2,321 WTE which represented a growth of almost 400 WTE since 2019. The WTE Control Limit for December 2025 is expected to be 2,655 representing a growth of almost 600 WTE since 2019.

This includes an additional 136 WTE to convert overtime working hours to full time jobs, thus reducing the dependency on overtime working and improving staff wellbeing.

The Deputy will recently have received communication from NAS setting out details of the planned disbursement of investment arising from the HSE National Service Plan 2025 which includes proposed investment that will benefit the Midlands Region.

I hope you find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

