



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

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JJMcG/PQ27169/25

11th June 2025

Deputy Martin Daly TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 27169/25

To ask the Minister for Health the number of ambulances based in County Roscommon that are available on a 24-7 basis, as of 1 June 2022, 1 June 2023, 1 June 2024 and 1 June 2025, in tabular form. -Martin Daly

Dear Deputy Daly

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.

NAS is one of the State's Principal Emergency Services (PES) serving the population of Ireland, i.e., over five million people. An independent demand and capacity analysis conducted in 2022, projected 999 activity to increase by up to 107% over the 10-year period from 2017 to 2027.

Demand via the 999 service has increased by 25% since 2019, with growth in 2024 up by 9% on 2023. The need for additional capacity is a matter of public record https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/committee_of_public_accounts/2021-09-23/3/, whereby it was confirmed by the HSE (CEO and COO) in September 2021, that NAS had a then capacity deficit of 90 emergency ambulance crews daily (1,080 WTE).

The matter was the subject of further public record in February 2023 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 finalisation of a NAS Workforce Plan 2022-2028 in June 2022, underpinned by an independent demand and capacity analysis, which identified the need for considerable growth in the workforce across the country, both now and into the future (2,579 additional WTE by 2028).

The HSE Pay and Numbers Strategy for 2024 set the WTE Ceiling for NAS at 2,321 WTE which represents a growth of almost 300 WTE since 2019. The WTE Ceiling will increase further in 2025 to 2,655.





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In comparison to NAS, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust has 4,079 WTE <https://senedd.wales/media/kradakae/gen-ld16576-e.pdf> to serve 3.1m people (2021 Census), while the Scottish Ambulance Service has 5,837 WTE <https://www.scottishambulance.com/publications/annual-report-and-accounts/> to serve 5.4m people (2022 Census).

The National Ambulance Service (NAS) serves the West & North West – which includes Co. Roscommon - through a highly skilled workforce, a fleet consisting of emergency ambulances, intermediate care vehicles and rapid response vehicles and the NAS National Emergency Operations. The West & North West also has a large number of alternative care pathways, including but not limited to Community Paramedic and Pathfinder. These resources serve the people of the West & North West, offering a multitude of alternative pathways for care.

NAS continue to seek additional New Service Development posts through the Estimates process in order to increase its' workforce to serve the growing population and increase in demand for Co. Roscommon, the West & North West and Nationally.

The NAS operates a dynamic model of ambulance deployment. This is in line with international best practice and allows the NAS to prioritise resource allocation to the highest acuity calls that require an immediate emergency response. Dynamic deployment also allows the NAS to categorise non-serious or non-life- threatening calls, and to provide a resource appropriate to the patient's clinical need. This does mean that at particularly busy periods lower acuity calls will be liable to experience a longer wait for an ambulance. This has become more of a challenge in recent years with the continuous growth in activity volume. NAS also operates under the HSE's 'Performance Accountability Framework', which sets out the means by which the service is held to account for its performance in relation to access to services and the quality and safety of those services.

Table 1 below gives details of the no of ambulances available, on average, in Co. Roscommon:

DAY	AVERAGE NO OF EA'S 03.06.2025	AVERAGE NO OF EA'S 03.06.2024	AVERAGE NO OF EA'S 03.06.2023	AVERAGE NO OF EA'S 03.06.2022
Monday	8	8	8	8
Tuesday	9	9	9	9
Wednesday	9	9	9	9
Thursday	9	9	9	9
Friday	8	8	8	8
Saturday	9	9	9	9
Sunday	9	9	9	9

Table 1: Average no of EA's –





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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John J McGowan
General Manager
National Ambulance Service

