



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

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NM/PQ 52184/25

16th October 2025

Deputy Cathal Crowe TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 52184/25

To ask the Minister for Health the way in which her Department, along with the national ambulance service, proposes to increase the availability of ambulances and skilled paramedics in County Clare; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Cathal Crowe

Dear Deputy Crowe

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.

Can I please refer you to PQ 50568.25, responded to on 08.10.2025, which addresses the above question.

As stated in this 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).





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The HSE Pay and Numbers Strategy for 2025 set the WTE Ceiling for NAS at 2,655 WTE which represents a growth of over 500 WTE since 2019.

In comparison to NAS, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust has 4,079 WTE <https://senedd.wales/media/kradakaee/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).

NAS continues to seek for New Service Developments to improve services across the Country through the HSE Service Plan on an annual basis. All new development posts are allocated to RHAs based on demand and performance figures at the time of allocation.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Murray
General Manager
National Ambulance Service

