



Ceanncheathru Otharchairr
Aonad Sa, Paire Ghno Fainne Theas B6thar
Chionn tSaile
Corcaigh

Ambulance Headquarters
Unit Sa, South Ring Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

E. rob.moriarty@hse.ie

RM/PQ44498/25

22nd September 2025

Deputy Seamus McGrath TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ44498/25:

To ask the Minister for Health if there are plans to make operational motorcycle ambulance or paramedic response vehicles in the Cork region; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Séamus McGrath

Dear Deputy McGrath

Thank you for your query regarding motorcycle ambulance or paramedic response vehicles in the Cork region.

By way of context, a pilot Motorcycle Response Unit (MRU) was initiated in Cork City in 2018. This was facilitated by temporarily suppressing an Emergency Ambulance crew (two Paramedics) and reallocating them to the MRU, which was based out of the Erville Campus. Between 2019 and 2021, the MRU responded to 2,070 calls. Owing to its speed and ability to navigate urban traffic, the MRU was typically able to respond to Category 1 (life-threatening) calls in an impressive 10 minutes or less.

The absence of dedicated funded position numbers for a permanent unit meant that it was not sustainable to continue suppressing an Emergency Ambulance to maintain this service. A panel for the MRU remains in place until the end of 2025. However, given current resource limitations and competing service pressures, it is unlikely that the MRU can be restored in 2026, as any limited additional staffing is required to strengthen Emergency Ambulance capacity in Cork City.

To ensure the MRU motorbikes remain deployed operationally and maintained appropriately, they have been temporarily transferred to Dublin. The NAS remains open to reinstating the MRU in Cork should dedicated position numbers and funding become available in future service plans.





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I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Moriarty
General Manager
National Ambulance Service (South West)

