



RM/PQ 44499/25

22nd September 2025

Deputy Seamus McGrath TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ44499.25: To ask the Minister for Health the average ambulance response times in Cork City and County for 2023 and 2024; the breakdown of response times, for example, the percentage of responses in less than 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, 25 minutes, in tabular form, and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy McGrath

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.

The NAS report monthly on PURPLE (Echo) and RED (Delta) call activity, category AS1 (life threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest or life threatening other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) calls. Response times per county or CHO are not deemed a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for the Health Information Quality Authority (HIQA), the Department of Health (DoH) or the National Ambulance Service. Therefore, reporting and publishing of response times on a county by county or CHO basis is not a requirement.

In 2025, the HSE National Service Plan set national aggregate Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets for emergency calls as follows:

1. PURPLE (Echo, life-threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest) (75% in 18 minutes, 59 seconds)
2. RED (Delta, life-threatening illness or injury, other than cardiac or respiratory arrest) (45% in 18 minutes, 59 seconds).





In 2023 and 2024, data was recorded via division – North Leinster, Southern and Western divisions. The Southern Division includes Cork City and County. Table 1 and 2 below indicate the response times for the Southern Division during 2023 and 2024:

Table 1: % of Clinical Status 1 PURPLE incidents - Southern Division

% of Clinical Status 1 PURPLE incidents responded to by a First Responder and / or a patient carrying vehicle in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less												
SOUTH WEST	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2023	78%	67%	73%	78%	69%	64%	69%	67%	66%	66%	74%	74%
2024	73%	77%	72%	76%	68%	66%	64%	69%	68%	68%	67%	63%

Table 2: % of Clinical Status 1 RED incidents – Southern Division

% of Clinical Status 1 RED incidents responded to by a First Responder and / or a patient carrying vehicle in 18 minutes and 59 seconds or less												
SOUTH WEST	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2023	44%	45%	41%	43%	42%	37%	39%	39%	40%	42%	46%	38%
2024	44%	45%	44%	45%	43%	41%	40%	43%	41%	42%	40%	37%

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Moriarty
General Manager
NAS Southwest (Cork & Kerry)

