



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

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WM/PQ 45398.25 & PQ 45399.25

22nd September 2025

Deputy Emer Currie TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 45398/25

To ask the Minister for Health the average response times for ambulances in Ireland, by county, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Emer Currie

PQ 45399/25

To ask the Minister for Health the strategies in place to reduce response times for ambulances; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Emer Currie

Dear Deputy Currie

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above parliamentary questions 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.

PQ 45398/25:

Please see table below on the average ambulance response times January –August 2025 per RHA.

2025 (Jan-August)	
HSE Dublin and North East	00:21
HSE Dublin and Midlands	00:23
HSE Dublin and South East	00:25
HSE South West	00:24
HSE Mid West	00:24
HSE West and North West	00:25





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PQ 45399/25:

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. Initiatives for 2025 have the WTE Ceiling for NAS at its' current level of 2655.

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

A comprehensive submission for an increase in WTE has been prepared and submitted as part of the Estimates Process for 2026.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

William Merriman
Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service

