



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

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Ref: SK/PQ45519/25

5th September 2025

Deputy Claire Kerrane TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster
House
Dublin 2

PQ45519/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason persons that successfully completed the privileging course on 11 July 2025 were initially allowed to practice as advanced paramedics and were subsequently notified on 13 August 2025 that the letters provided permitting them to do so were rescinded and they were not allowed to practice as advanced paramedics until further notice; if and when it is expected these individuals will be allowed to practice as advanced paramedics; the process for allowing these individuals to practice as advanced paramedics; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Claire Kerrane

Dear Deputy Kerrane,

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.

With the design and implementation of this new programme, new administrative structures and new contracts for specialist paramedics there is a dual requirement for the successful participant to sign a new contract of employment and then be authorised to practice (privileged) by the Clinical Director. The process for privileging these practitioners has changed and is no longer a local function but is delegated to the General Manager – Professional Development. Participants were informed at the end of the programme to await contracts and a letter of authorisation, before they are permitted to practice. Unfortunately in one area three members of staff were authorised to practice by a local manager, without contracts having been issued or signed. Once this anomaly was brought to our attention their privilege was withdrawn to ensure appropriate governance and contractual requirements.





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If and when it is expected these individuals will be allowed to practice as advanced paramedics;

The Advanced Paramedic privileging programme was concluded and staff were told they would be issued letters of authorisation to practice at AP level. However a ballot was underway by Trade Unions to determine if their members accept WRC proposals, which will also affect the pay arrangements of staff members privileged to practice at this level, we had to await the decision of that vote which was expected by the 1st September 2025.

Letters of Privilege to Practice were issued to all eligible successful practitioners on 5th September, meaning they can practice as an Advanced Paramedic.

The process for allowing these individuals to practice as advanced paramedics;

The process for allowing all practitioners in Ireland to practice is complicated due to the limitations of current legislation. Registered Paramedics, Advanced Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians are not permitted to practice in Ireland unless they are permitted to practice by a Physician in an organisation approved by the Regulator. Unlike any other Healthcare Professions here or abroad, the discipline of paramedicine cannot practice autonomously as a registered and licensed practitioner due to the legislation and the Regulator's policies (the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council) and this creates complications for registration, education and permission to practice.

I hope this information is helpful.

Dr. Shane Knox
Director of Paramedicine
National Ambulance Service

