



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

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

Office of the Director
National Ambulance Service

Rivers Building, Tallaght Cross
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Ref: SK/PQ 47998-9/25

1st October 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 47998/25

To ask the Minister for Health if the issuance of letters of authorisation to practice, in the case of recently qualified paramedics, have been disrupted (details supplied); if so, the reason if this is the case; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Marie Sherlock.

Details: reports of multiple graduates from paramedic classes PD19 and PD20 and APs who are officially registered as paramedics/advanced paramedics on the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) register.

PQ 47999/25

To ask the Minister for Health when recently qualified paramedics and advanced paramedics graduates will formally be able to practice and receive letters of authorisation to practice, in the case of paramedic classes (details supplied); and if she will make a statement on the matter. - Marie Sherlock.

Details: reports of multiple graduates from paramedic classes PD19 and PD20 and APs who are officially registered as paramedics/advanced paramedics on the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) register.

Dear Deputy Sherlock

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.

With regard to paramedic classes PD19 and PD20, these classes have not graduated yet, but are due to graduate in late 2026. All are, and have always been, privileged to practice.

The HSE NAS do not have newly qualified Advanced Paramedics, but have a group of registered Advanced Paramedics who completed a privileging course, and are now all privileged to practice.

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.





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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, PHECC) and this creates complications for registration, education and permission to practice (privileging).

The HSE- National Ambulance Service designed and implemented a new 'privileging' programme to allow practitioners registered by PHECC to complete a programme aligning them to the NAS standards, clinical practice guidelines, policies and procedures. 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.

In summary, all those registrants you refer to are privileged to practice.

I hope this information is helpful.

Dr. Shane Knox

Director of Paramedicine

National Ambulance Service





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