



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
Tallaght, Dublin, D24 XNP2

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Ref: RM/PQ49140/25

1 October 2025

Deputy Richard Boyd Barrett
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ49140/25

**1367. To ask the Minister for Health to explain the reason a recent decision was made to award a contract for non-emergency patient transport in the greater Dublin area to a private ambulance provider when NAS ICV resources are already available; the safeguards in place to ensure that this is not the beginning of a wider privatisation agenda within pre-hospital emergency care; if she will clarify the way in which the Government will protect the future of the ICV service and ensure the professional integrity of paramedics, EMTs, and advanced practitioners within NAS; if she will review the decision to outsource this contract and commit to strengthening and investing in NAS resources rather than diverting public funds into private services; if she will engage in meaningful consultation with staff representatives to safeguard the future of their profession and protect the public interest; and if she will make a statement on the matter. — Richard Boyd Barrett. [49140/25]*

Dear Deputy Boyd Barrett,

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.

There is no plan to outsource the NAS Intermediate Care Service, who continue to do a fantastic job, both responding to the needs of our patients and supporting patient flow across our acute hospital network.

In stark contrast, the HSE' National Service Plan in 2025, has provided for 24 additional posts in this service to facilitate expansion in both the South West and Mid-West Regions this year. 22 new EMTs commenced induction and a period of adaptation on 3 June 2025 (unfortunately, 2 candidates have dropped out).

Separately, we have submitted a bid to the HSE Estimates process, for 42 further posts in 2026 to create six new seven-day ICS crews, one in each HSE Region. It will be a matter for decision makers to accept or reject our proposals, based on the budget assigned to the HSE by Government next year.

We are proud of the work of all our staff in NAS and will continue to advocate for further increases in our directly employed workforce in our Intermediate Care Service.

In summary, we want to be clear, NAS is not proposing to outsource our Intermediate Care Service now or in the future. NAS remains fully committed to staffing and expanding the





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Intermediate Care Service and continuing to deploy this valuable service in line with the PHECC EMS Dispatch and Inter Facility Transfers Standards.

Yours sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

