



Ceanncheathru Otharchair
Aonad Sa, Paire Ghno Fainne Theas B6thar
Chionn tSaile
Corcaigh

Ambulance Headquarters
Unit Sa, South Ring Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

E. rob.moriarty@hse.ie

6th October 2025

Deputy John Paul O'Shea,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 50911/25

“To ask the Minister for Health to provide funding through the HSE to a charity (Blood Bikes South) who provide an invaluable service to public hospitals and other medical facilities for vital medical materials on an out-of-hours service; and if she will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy O'Shea,

The Health Service Executive have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted for the Minister for Health for response.

I wish to begin by acknowledging the fantastic work undertaken by *Blood Bikes South*. This volunteer-based group provides an invaluable service to our health system and to the communities we serve, particularly in the timely delivery of vital medical materials to public hospitals and other healthcare facilities.

In relation to the Deputy's query on funding support, I must advise that the provision of direct revenue funding to voluntary organisations is not within the means or remit of the National Ambulance Service (NAS). However, NAS has a long tradition of supporting voluntary partners where possible, and this has included the donation of vehicles and equipment where service demand allows.

A request of the nature outlined by the Deputy could be considered in the first instance by the Head of Service, Fleet and Assets, NAS. I would be glad to relay any such request on behalf of the Cork Kerry region.

The HSE also offers National Lottery grants to community groups and voluntary organizations for projects that enhance health and social care services in their local communities. These grants typically support activities like purchasing equipment, organizing health-related events and courses, or providing short-term respite care for people with disabilities, the elderly, and other disadvantaged groups. The 2026 grants scheme will open in early January 2026 and details on how to apply will be available on the HSE website in due course. Further information on these grants can be found on the HSE's website at the following link:





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<https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/lottery-grants/national-lottery-grants/>

Yours sincerely,

Rob Moriarty
General Manager
NAS Southwest

