Mr. Alan Kelly TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

10th March 2021.

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**Re: PQ12364/21. To ask the Minister for Health the details of the HSE provision to co-respond to certain medical emergencies with the fire service in cases in which the ambulance service is occupied; the number of times co-responding has been utilised in County Kerry in 2020 and 2021 in cases in which the fire service has not been called on to co-respond in the county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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Dear Deputy Kelly,

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

The National Ambulance Service has linkages with certain fire services, under the Fire Responder Scheme, as a secondary stand-by responder for 'Echo' calls. However, there are currently no linkages in County Kerry.

As fire services are currently managed and operated at a Local Authority level, therefore, a decision is at an individual Local Authority level as to whether they wish to deploy their fire personnel who have the required qualifications to such calls. In addition, any remuneration for undertaking such roles by suitably qualified retained fire personnel is also a matter for the relevant Local Authority.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and should you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Pauline McDonagh - Senior Executive Officer.

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á Forbairt | Service