



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/PQ/15508/9/24

23rd April 2024

Deputy David Cullinane TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ15508/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the governance arrangements in place within the HSE to ensure that the monies given to Dublin City Council for the provision of emergency ambulance services are fully accountable and transparent on an annual basis; if he is satisfied with this approach - David Cullinane

PQ15509/24 - To ask the Minister for Health the level of monies outstanding or owed to Dublin City Council for the provision of emergency ambulance services - David Cullinane

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

PQ15508/24

NAS is the statutory Pre-Hospital emergency and intermediate care provider for the State and operates a national service on behalf of the HSE throughout the country, including Dublin.

Section 9(1)(a) of the Fire Services Act 1981 provides that Dublin City Council (DCC) is the Fire Authority for Dublin. Section 25 of the Fire Services Act 1981 provides that a Fire Authority may carry out or assist in any operations of an emergency nature. On this basis, DCC avails of its statutory powers to operate ambulance services in parts of Co. Dublin, alongside NAS.

There is no Service Level Agreement (SLA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in place between the HSE and DCC specifying or commissioning ambulance services from DCC, or describing governance, accountability, funding or performance management arrangements.

Therefore, the HSE does not have any governance or oversight role in relation to or financial responsibility for services DCC provides under Section 25 of the Fire Services Act 1981 on behalf of Local Authorities in Dublin. In this regard, the delivery of any services by DCC, in exercising any powers conferred by Section 25 of the Fire Services Act 1981, remain the financial responsibility of those Local Authorities.

Based on long standing arrangements, grounded in the recommendations of the Review of Ambulance Services in Ireland 1993, the HSE does make a financial contribution to DCC towards the running of the provision of 11 emergency ambulances on a 24/7 basis in a predefined area.





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In transactional terms, Dublin City Council submits a monthly invoice, payment of which is intended to support the pay costs, superannuation costs, and non-pay costs relevant to 105 WTE's within DFB. There is no SLA in place between the HSE and DCC to vary the amount of the contribution made or accede to, agree with or accept any alternative operational or costing model.

In this context, there are no outstanding balances due to Dublin City Council at this time.

In relation to strengthening the capacity of emergency ambulance services in Dublin, NAS has opened a new Ambulance Station in Finglas in 2023 and has provided additional emergency ambulance services in 2024 operating from Finglas, Swords, Loughlinstown and Maynooth which now indirectly benefits service provision in Dublin.

I hope this information is helpful.

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

