



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/7587/24

27 February 2024

Deputy Aengus Ó Snodaigh TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ/7537/24 - To ask the Minister for Health what action has his Department has taken to ensure the HSE pays the €17.03 million owed to Dublin City Council for the ambulance service provided by Dublin Fire Brigade; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Ó Snodaigh,

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.

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.

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.

In this context, the HSE does not have any governance or oversight role in relation to or financial responsibility for services DCC decides to provide 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.

In his response to you, the Minister has outlined that 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 annually.

The financial contribution is specifically towards the pay costs, superannuation costs, and non-pay costs relevant to 105 WTE's within DFB, i.e. the provision of 11 emergency ambulances on a 24/7 basis in a predefined area. 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.





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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

