



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Oibríochtaí
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta
Bloc 4, Lárionad Gnó,
Tulach Mhór,
Co. Uíbh Fhailí, R35 FH59

Office of the Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service
Block 4, Central Business Park,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly R35 FH59

www.hse.ie
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)

t 057 9357696
e william.merriman@hse.ie

WM/PQ/277757.24

11 July 2024

Deputy Joe Carey
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Carey

PQ 277757.24

To ask the Minister for Health if information (details supplied) will be provided on the National Ambulance Service in County Clare; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Joe Carey

Details

- How many Advanced Paramedics are available in Co Clare on an average week across any 90 day period compared to the same periods in 2018 and 2021?

Why has NAS training ceased for Paramedics who wish to upskill to Advanced Paramedic level ?

Please list response times to Cardiac Arrest call outs in Co Clare in the last 12 weeks Why are Emergency Ambulances being used for AS3 calls in the middle of the night leaving large parts of Co Clare without emergency cover ?

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 Health for response.

Please note that Advanced Paramedic is a level of clinical practice, i.e. registered as an Advanced Paramedic with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC). There is no specific employment grade within the HSE called Advanced Paramedic and hence, a variety of grades of staff may be registered as an Advanced Paramedic with PHECC.

There are currently 14 staff across a number of grades who are currently Privileged (Authorised) to Practice as an Advanced Paramedic in Co. Clare. In addition, there are a further three managers which work on a rotational roster providing operational cover who are registered as an Advanced Paramedic with the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).

There are no plans to expand, maintain or reduce advanced paramedic recruitment in 2024. Where a staff member retires, leaves or seeks promotion, any subsequent vacancy is filled in the normal manner, subject to the HSE Employment Controls that may be in place at the time of the vacancy.





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Given the dynamic impact of short notice absenteeism on shift cover arrangements, and the availability of staff to work overtime, it is not possible to retrospectively track which shifts had any staff grade with Advanced Paramedic training on duty.

Therefore, the specific information you have requested regarding shifts is not available as there is no operational reason for the collection of such information and there are no clerical administrative staff in place to facilitate the production on such reports.

In line with International Best Practice, the NAS operates a dynamic deployment model which results in the closest ambulance being tasked to respond to high acuity Purple calls (Life Threatening cardiac or respiratory) or Red calls (life threatening illness or injury other than cardiac or respiratory arrest). This call taking and dispatch function is operated by the NAS National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) which operates across two sites, Dublin and Ballyshannon. All NAS resources are dispatched to calls across the country from the NEOC on a nearest available (to the incident) basis and not on a county boundary basis. The National Service Plan for the HSE in 2024 set out Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for those 999 calls that are categorised as either immediately life-threatening (PURPLE) or potentially life-threatening (RED).

KPIs are set based on the expected level of rising demand compared to the level of funded capacity available to respond to that demand. KPIs set out in the NSP are national aggregate targets rather than locality-based targets and reflect the geographical and rurality challenges and diversity faced in achieving such targets. NSP 2024 targets included 75% of 999 PURPLE calls should be met within 19min and 45% of 999 RED calls should be met within 19min.

Emergency Call Category	Midwest - 08 Apr–30 June 24	National – 08 Apr–30 June 24	Target 2024
PURPLE (life-threatening cardiac or respiratory arrest)	80.71%	73.07%	75%
RED (life-threatening illness or injury, other than cardiac or respiratory arrest)	49%	49.17%	45%

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

William Merriman
Director of Operations
National Ambulance Service

