



Oifig anStiúrthóir
An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta,

Foirgneamh Aibhneacha, Crosbhóthar
Thamhlachta, Tamhlacht,
Baile Átha Cliath D24 XNP2

Office of the Director
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Ref: RM/PQ/12391/24

5 April 2024

Deputy Alan Dillion
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

PQ 12391/24 - To ask the Minister for Health how his Department and the HSE plans to integrate doctors into the critical care helicopter emergency medical service considering the positive impact of such integration in the UK NHS; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Dillon

Dear Deputy Dillion

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.

The NHS in England does not directly provide Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) which continue to be operated by Air Ambulance Charities, details of which are available here: <https://www.airambulancesuk.org/the-uks-air-ambulance-charities/>

In Ireland, the HEMS operated by the HSE are publicly funded and focussed on meeting the needs of the Irish healthcare system, and in particular, focussed on providing patients in rural locations with timely access to recommended clinical pathways.

The clinical crewing requirements are determined on an ongoing basis by the Clinical Director, having due regard to the advice of an Expert Advisory Group and current literature.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely

Robert Morton
Director
National Ambulance Service

