



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

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Ref: WM/PQ/44637/24

19<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Deputy Mairead Farrell  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 44637/24**

**To ask the Minister for Health, has he any plans to introduce an ambulance service on Inis Oírr; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Mairéad Farrell**

Dear Deputy Farrell,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) National Ambulance Service (NAS) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The National Ambulance Service sought funding in 2023 through the Multi-Annual Integrated Urgent and Emergency Care Delivery Plan Saolta, CHO 1, CH West, PH and NAS process which was the only route for new funding. No funding was received through this route.

While it may appear that all that is required is vehicles there is a significant amount of work that occurs by NAS to ensure appropriate governance and safety. To this end NAS requires recurrent investment in terms of staff in the NAS Training College, operational staff who would work with the island volunteers and some short term funding for procurement and fleet staff to organise the build, fit out and commissioning of the vehicles.

Through having recently refreshed the vehicles on Inis Mór and Árainn Mhór NAS have seen how much additional support is required by the volunteers on the islands. While NAS has been able to deploy these vehicles within existing resources it will not be possible to deploy anymore vehicles without the investment outlined above.

In addition, further discussions will be needed with the States Claims Agency regarding rolling out any more vehicles as the arrangement on Inis Mór and Árainn Mhór was allowed to continue due to the historical presence on these islands of a vehicle.

The investment required is considerable especially in light of the new pay and numbers strategy.





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I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

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General Manager Operations West  
National Ambulance Service

