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WM/PQ/25/1223

6th February 2025

Deputy Conor Sheehan TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ25/1123

To ask the Minister for Health the number of HSE rapid response vehicles available on a 24-7 basis in Limerick as of 6 January 2025; if this number will be further increased during 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Conor Sheehan

Dear Deputy Sheehan,

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.

NAS operates a dynamic model of ambulance deployment. This is in line with international best practice and allows the NAS to prioritise resource allocation to the highest acuity calls that require an immediate emergency response. Dynamic deployment also allows the NAS to categorise non-serious or non-life-threatening calls, and to provide a resource appropriate to the patients' clinical need. This does mean that at particularly busy periods, lower acuity calls will be liable to experience a longer wait for an ambulance.

The Rapid Response Vehicle (RRV) has the capacity to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) to Emergency Ambulance crews who are deployed from nearby stations in response to 999/112 calls, including Ennis, Limerick and Nenagh as part of the dynamic deployment model. This service also provides an initial ALS response to patients where no Emergency Ambulance is immediately available. However, an RRV, of itself, cannot transport a patient to the Emergency Department - the conveyance of patients, in the Mid West and elsewhere, can only be conducted by Emergency Ambulance

There are currently two ALS RRV rostered to operate out of the Mid West region as of 6 January 2025

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Niall Murray
General Manager Area Operations – NAS Mid West

