

Question on Notice
No. 324
Asked on 7 March 2007

MR RICKUSS asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

QUESTION:

With reference to ambulance officers performing E/A duties, who are forced to take operational vehicles home and park them in their yards or on community streets leaving them (Paramedics) and their families vulnerable to potential criminal behaviour i.e. drug seeking criminal activity— Are officers in this situation being forced to be in possession of morphine in contravention of the Drugs Act and, if so, what action is he taking to ensure this doesn't continue to happen?

ANSWER:

Under Part 8 Section 119 (4) of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation, an ambulance officer may possess a controlled drug such as morphine, at a place other than where they would normally perform ambulance duties. This includes whilst they are performing emergency availability.