



Deputy Michael Moynihan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

12th April 2019

PQ 15088/19 **To ask the Minister for Health the efforts being made to increase the number of multiple sclerosis specialist nurses and neurologists here; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

The Health Service Executive 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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

The HSE does not currently employ nurses and neurologists exclusively assigned to care for persons with multiple sclerosis. Patients with neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis are cared for by both general and specialist neurology nurses and doctors across a range of inpatient and outpatient services. There are currently two advanced nurse practitioners in neurology and two clinical nurse specialists in neurology in post nationally and an additional 0.5 consultant neurologist post was funded in 2018.

Applications for funding for new posts are reviewed in the context of the Estimates and Service Planning process each year in association with the Department of Health and within available resources for service developments.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,

Therese Dalchan
General Manager
Acute Operations