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04/06/2019

Deputy John Lahart
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 22025/19

To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE will implement the international consensus criteria for myalgic encephalomyelitis in order that persons with ME can get a clear diagnosis as soon as possible; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

- John Lahart

Dear Deputy Lahart,

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

As with all assessments and treatments, whether they are provided in primary care or secondary care settings, the aim is to provide comprehensive evidence-based, safe, up-to-date care for all patients. To date there is no specific diagnostic test to determine or confirm a correct diagnosis of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.) nor is there any specific treatment which works for all people living with the condition. Assessment and interventions need to be tailored to the individual.

There is a working group for M.E. due to convene, the purpose of which is to develop a national guidance document for ME. Main aims of this group include developing formalised protocols for people living with ME, as well as developing a standardised generic assessment tool that can be used with people living with ME to identify, assess and appropriately address their needs.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Walsh".

David Walsh,
National Director,
Community Operations