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**Date: 31/05/2019**

Deputy Fiona O'Loughlin TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

**PQ No. 22968/19: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to assist persons with Parkinson's disease; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Loughlin,

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.

The overarching aim of the Neurology Clinical Programme is that patients should have equitable access to a high-quality responsive service which provides accurate diagnosis and appropriate management for all neurological conditions including those with Parkinson's disease.

The Model of Care for Neurology (2016) includes a care pathway for the management of persons with Parkinson's disease. The pathway would state that specialist care should be provided by a Consultant Neurologists working with a multidisciplinary team, to include specialist nurses, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists etc, in order to support the management of their symptoms including mobility; functional independence; effective communication, swallowing etc.

Currently in Ireland, there are 5 Parkinson Disease Nurses attached to acute Neurology centers

- University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle – 1 post
- St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin – 1 post

- AMNCH Tallaght – 1 post
- Mater Hospital, Dublin – 1 post
- Galway University Hospital – 1 post (Movement Disorder)

Additionally in 2018, funding was provided for a coordinated, multidisciplinary All Island Deep Brain Stimulation service for Parkinson's disease, based in the Mater Hospital, which includes a Consultant Neurologist post (0.5WTE); a Psychologist (1WTE); a speech and language therapist (1WTE); a Physiotherapists (0.5WTE); and an administrator (1WTE).

Furthermore, the recently launched National Implementation Framework (2019-2021) for the National Strategy and Policy for the provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland, describes the fundamental principles of design and service delivery required to implement the strategy over the next 3 years. This is available at:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/disability/neurorehabilitation/national-strategy-policy-for-the-provision-of-neuro-rehabilitation-services-in-ireland.pdf>

Developments as outlined in the implementation framework regarding community rehabilitation will be welcomed across the Republic of Ireland. It is well documented and described within the Model of Care for Neurology that maintaining wellbeing within community settings, near to the persons home is recommended as central to the management of conditions such as Parkinson's disease.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



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**Emma Benton**

**General Manager**

**Acute Operations**