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Deputy Alan Kelly TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ No. 48663/19

To ask the Minister for Health his plans to increase the number of specialist Parkinson's disease nurses nationally in order to have a specialist nurse in each county (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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:

I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Currently there are 5 nurses attached to Acute hospitals in the Republic of Ireland, as follows

- 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)

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology in its Model of Care (2016) outlines a Parkinson's disease pathway to serve the Irish population. It is acknowledged that there is a need to develop services for those with Parkinson's disease in line with international standards, which includes the expansion of access to specialist nursing throughout the country in keeping with international ratios and standards.

In support of the realisation of the model of care, two Clinical Nurse Specialist posts were approved in 2018 to support the development of the Deep Brain Stimulation service for Parkinson's Disease in the Mater Hospital. The two additional nurse posts were filled in 2019. Additionally, funding was provided in 2018 for a Consultant Neurologist (0.5 WTE), a Psychologist (1WTE), a Speech and Language Therapist (1WTE), a Physiotherapist (0.5 WTE) and Administration support (1 WTE), with positions filled in 2019. This is a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary all Ireland service with both peri-operative and post-operative care being provided in Dublin.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology acknowledges the need to continue the expansion of neurology services and continues to support and advocate for the realisation of the Model of Care.

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations