



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohifigeach Cliniciúil  
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Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 10950/20

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of stroke beds here; the deficit that exists for the population on the basis of recommendations contained in the UK national clinical guidelines for stroke; the number of stroke beds required to manage the predicted increase in stroke outlined by SAFE; the estimated cost of meeting the staffing requirements for a singular stroke unit bed; the estimated cost required to meet the increase in incidence; the additional staffing needed for the development of acute stroke unit bed capacity; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

In assessing acute stroke beds needed the NSP looked at the existing number of beds and what was needed now to ensure we meet our agreed national key performance indicator (KPI) that 90% of cases of acute stroke are admitted to a stroke unit bed and what will be needed over the next five years at each site using a calculation based on the proportional growth in the over 65 population in the catchment of each hospital (taken from Central Statistics Office data) and the fact that 75% of strokes occur in that age group.

Current Stroke Unit Beds	Annual Stroke Admissions-2018	Potential increase in no of strokes	Total no acute stroke beds needed in next 5 years (cognisant of potential increase in stroke numbers and individual hospital AvLoS for stroke)
210	5546	1561	327

Adequate staffing of stroke units is essential to ensure proper care of this emergency brain injury, enhance acute treatment delivery, prevent and manage complications, start patient recovery and discharge planning early and to ensure proper patient and carer education and support. The NSP has described the required staffing for a five-bedded stroke unit based on the British Association of Stroke physicians 2016 National Stroke Guideline.

5 Bedded Stroke Unit (1 Hyperacute bed, 4 Acute Stroke Unit Beds)	Physiotherapist	Occupational Therapist	Speech and Language Therapist	Clinical Psychologist	Dietician*	Nurse	Consultant Stroke Physician
	Whole-Time equivalent (WTE) per 5 beds					WTE per bed	24/7 availability; minimum 6 thrombolysis trained physicians on rota. Consultant led ward round five days per week.
1 Hyperacute Stroke Unit bed	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.04	0.07	Registered 2.32 Unregistered 0.58	
4 Acute Stroke Unit beds	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	Registered 3.51 Unregistered 1.89	
<b>Total WTE</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>Registered 5.8 Unregistered 2.9</b>	

Nursing deficits of 24% currently exist within the current number of stroke unit beds.

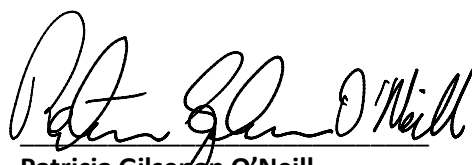
	Staff Nurse Costs per Recommended Stroke Unit Beds (1.16 per bed)	HCA Costs (.58 per bed)
<b>TOTAL COST FOR RECOMMENDED SU BEDS</b>	<b>7,766,772.66</b>	<b>4,537,676</b>
<b>TOTAL POSTS REQUIRED FOR RECOMMENDED SU BEDS</b>	<b>205.02</b>	<b>143</b>

For HSCPs the NSP mapped the existing gap in staff numbers for all disciplines that exists currently and what would be needed with the projected growth in stroke numbers at individual sites. Increasing staff WTEs to the required level has significant costs and takes time to recruit suitable qualified personnel. Conscious of these factors the NSP recommends a stratified staged approach to reaching optimal staffing levels so sites can see the required human resource and indicative budgetary implications to staff their stroke services appropriately.

Discipline	Year 1 Posts/ Costs		Year 2 Posts/Costs		Year 3 Posts/Costs	
Physiotherapy	9.5	€538,603	14.7	€833,417	14.7	€833,417
Occupational Therapy	9.5	€538,603	13.2	€748,374	13.6	€771,052
Speech and Language Therapy	2.9	€164,416	7.2	€408,204	6.7	€379,857
Dietetics	8.7	€493,247	6.8	€385,526	6.8	€385,526
Clinical Psychology	7.6	€649,458	4.5	€384,548	4.5	€384,548
<b>Total Posts/Costs AHP</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>€2,384,327</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>€2,760,069</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>€2,754,400</b>

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Patricia Gilson O'Neill**  
General Manager