



Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,
31-33 Sráid Chaitríona, Luimneach.

Office of the Head of Operations,
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14th December 2021

Deputy Danny Healy-Rae,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: danny.healy-rae@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ 59283/21

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address the matter of funding for the Parkinson's Association and the need for specialist nurses to be put in place throughout the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Details supplied: I ask that the Parkinson's Association get more recognition and funding, also that specialist nurses are put in place throughout the Country to help people who suffer so much with this disease.

HSE Response

The objective of the HSE is to provide a multi-disciplinary team approach which includes the provision of health and personal supports required by people with Parkinson's disease and incorporates acute services and primary care and community services.

The HSE funds a range of community services and supports to enable each individual with a disability, including persons with Parkinson's disease, to achieve their full potential and maximise independence, including living as independently as possible. Services are provided in a variety of community and residential settings in partnership with service users, their families and carers and a range of statutory, non-statutory, voluntary and community groups. Services are provided either directly by the HSE or through a range of voluntary service providers.

The Parkinson's Association of Ireland

The Parkinson's Association of Ireland is largely funded through voluntary contributions and is allocated €60,000 through a Grant Aid Agreement in 2021 from HSE Primary Care Services, Community Healthcare Organisation Area 2, (Galway / Mayo / Roscommon) under Section 39 of the Health Act.

National Services include:

- The National Parkinson's Helpline (Freephone 1800 358 359)
- Parkinson's Nurse Specialist education & outreach programme
- Branch network of community volunteers throughout Ireland
- Parkinson's Publications including the quarterly magazine and website www.parkinsons.ie

The HSE liaises with the Parkinson's Association of Ireland through its membership of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, which is a national umbrella organisation for voluntary groups, professionals and



interested parties representing the views and concerns of those whose lives are affected by neurological conditions.

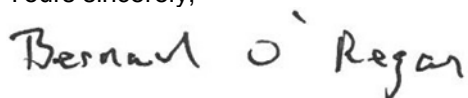
The majority of member groups of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland already receive funding per service provider of approximately €200m per annum. Funding is provided in respect of both operational expenses and service provision. Organisational expenses, funded by the HSE for individual organisations, may include the costs of Chief Executive Officers, administration staff, central office costs, etc. In addition, organisations are funded to provide services to people with disabilities, including the provision of information and support to people with disabilities, the provision of information and expertise to health care professionals working with individuals with particular conditions and, in some cases, the provision of residential, day, respite and all multidisciplinary supports.

The HSE understands the value of the Parkinson's Association of Ireland's services to people with Parkinson's and should further increases in funding be considered this can only be done within the parameters and scope of funding available to the HSE.

The HSE and disability service providers recognises the critical need and importance of all disability supports for people and their families. The impact of COVID-19 on people's lives has and continues to be very significant. Our collective aim is to restore services and ensure continuity of services in a safe way and in line with the very significant investment made by the State and funded agencies.

In this context, we welcome the recent announcements from the Government of additional funding for Disability Services for 2022. The specific breakdown of this investment will be discussed as part of the normal service planning process and will be detailed in the National Service Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Bernard O'Regan
Head of Operations - Disability Services,
Community Operations