

6th December 2021

Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: jennifer.murnaneocconnor@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 60260/21 – Neurology nurse specialists, SVUH

“To ask the Minister for Health the reason there are currently only four neurology nurse specialists at a hospital (details supplied*); his plans to increase the number of neurology nurse specialists at the hospital; if there are plans to increase neurology nursing staff around the country; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

***St Vincent's University Hospital”**

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

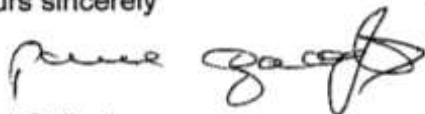
I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on neurology nurse specialists in St Vincent's University Hospital, which has been referred to the Ireland East Hospital Group for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised that the Neurology Department in St Vincent's University Hospital provides regional services in all aspects of general Neurology including Migraine and Epilepsy services in addition to tertiary services for people with Multiple Sclerosis; Cognitive Disorders; Dystonia and Movement Disorders and Parkinson Disease. The Neurology Department offers an inpatient, outpatient and consult service.

There are currently 10 specialist nursing positions in Neurology of which 8 are in post. Of the 2 vacant positions, 1 specialist nurse is commencing on 13th December 2021 and the post of Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Multiple Sclerosis will be advertised presently. The Neurology Ward is staffed with 1 CNM 2 and 8.5 staff nurses. There is currently a vacancy for a 0.5 WTE staff nurse.

The recruitment of nurses is a key priority of St Vincent's University Hospital. Nurse recruitment is a priority on a national level and in the Ireland East Hospital Group which includes St Vincent's University Hospital.
I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery