



Géaroibríochtaí
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Míleata Cill Mhaighneann, Baile Átha Cliath 8

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Date: 15th February 2021

Deputy Neale Richmond TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ No. 7466/21: To ask the Minister for Health if consideration has been given to implementing an awareness campaign on epilepsy and the way to address seizures due to the prevalence of epilepsy in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Richmond,

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:

HSE employees who work in the area of Epilepsy include as part of their role promotion in both individual and group patient understanding and awareness of the condition to reduce stigma, promote self-management and improve the profile of citizens with epilepsy. Work is also done in conjunction with Epilepsy Ireland (www.epilepsy.ie) and international partners in the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) (www.ILAE.com) and the International Bureau of Epilepsy (IBE) to promote and advocate on these issues within the community of people with epilepsy but also within the wider community of citizens to promote understanding.

Additionally a core mission of the SFI funded Research Centre FutureNeuro (www.FutureNeuro.ie) is the promotion of understanding of epilepsy and other chronic neurological diseases amongst the general public. The involvement of a number of HSE employees as Principal Investigators and Funded Investigators in FutureNeuro is another investment by the HSE in advocacy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emma Benton".

Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations