

15th January 2020

Deputy Paul Donnelly T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: paul.donnelly@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 44670/20 – Deep brain stimulation service, MMUH

“To ask the Minister for Health the details of the deep brain stimulation service for Parkinson’s disease in the Mater Hospital, Dublin.”

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question seeking an update on deep brain stimulation service for Parkinson’s disease in the Mater Misericordiae 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 National Deep Brain Stimulation service is currently operating as a network between the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital. The addition of Beaumont Hospital in 2020 along with the appointment of Ms Catherine Moran, consultant neurosurgeon, now provides a potential for deep brain stimulation surgery and all associated activity to take place in Ireland.

Prior to the recent appointment of a Deep Brain Stimulation neurosurgeon, the deep brain stimulation service has been limited to pre-operative and post-operative care only. Although non-surgical, this activity alone has taken back approximately half a million in expenditure that would otherwise have been spent on UK healthcare visits through the Treatment Abroad Scheme. Deep brain stimulation surgery is currently only available in UK hospitals which has been largely inaccessible in the NHS due to Covid-19. Eight patients with Parkinson’s disease did have successful surgery in the UK in 2020 through the National Deep Brain Stimulation Service, but all have access because of private health insurance allowing access to the private sector in London.

These surgeries have been hugely successful and post-operative programming in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital has led to very positive outcomes for these patients. The Covid pandemic has however contributed to huge inequality of access to deep brain stimulation while we await universal access to surgery in Beaumont Hospital with a development strategy. With this in mind, a 6-year business case has recently been submitted to the HSE outlining the costs anticipated to deliver a world class Deep Brain Stimulation service based in Dublin and a response is awaited.



I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Paul Gallagher
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery