



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Ceannasaí Náisiúnta Oibríochtaí Meabhairshláinte
Ospidéal Naomh Lómáin Baile Phámar Baile Átha Cliath 20.

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April 22nd 2021,
Deputy Alan Kelly,
Dail Eireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ
Number: 16768/21

PQ
Question: To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide mental health services with a specific focus on understanding that hydrocephalus is akin to acquired brain injury and needs special support; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Kelly

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

Hydrocephalus is a chronic, neurological condition caused by an abnormal accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) within cavities of the brain called ventricles, resulting in pressure on the brain. It is important to note that hydrocephalus can be a component of Acquired brain injury but not necessarily "akin to it".

People can have hydrocephalus for example (congenital hydrocephalus) be treated and not necessarily have an acquired brain injury.

More commonly though because of the nature and causes of acquired brain injury certain types of brain injury may be complicated by the development of hydrocephalus as a consequence of brain injury and as such people with acquired brain injury and hydrocephalus require treatment and management of that and may require a neurosurgical procedure to manage.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas O'Brien
General Manager Mental Health Services