

CC/JC/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

08th November 2021

Mr Joe Carey TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 53822/21

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the shortage of neurology nurse specialists throughout the hospital system in Ireland including the need for an additional eight nurses at the University Hospital Limerick; if he will ensure that the necessary resources are made available to bring the University Hospital Limerick in line with national and international guidelines of 11 neurology nurse specialists based in the mid-west region; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Joe Carey

Dear Deputy Carey,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your representation in relation to Neurology Services at UHL.

UL Hospitals Group recently conducted a gap analysis review of our Neurology Services in line with the Model of Care outlined by the National Clinical Programme for Neurology. UL Hospitals Group has identified the need for a number of additional resources within our Neurology Services to bring it in line with the model of care outlined by the National Clinical Programme of Neurology.

Of note, our gap analysis identified the need for five additional Neurology Consultants, seven additional Advanced Nurse Practitioners and five additional Clinical Nurse Specialists. UL Hospitals Group is committed to working with the estimates process to develop this service over a number of years in line with population health data and consistent with best practice.

In 2021, UL Hospitals Group was approved for two additional Consultant Neurologist posts to help address the deficits within this service. The recruitment process to fill these posts is ongoing.

There are currently two specialist nurses working within our Neurology Services, it is important to note that these specialist nurses are supported by a total of nine nursing staff, providing services across a range of specialties including:

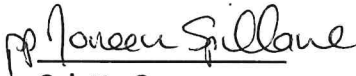
- Parkinson's (two Clinical Nurse Specialists [CNS] and one Clinical Nurse Manager [CNM2]);
- Epilepsy (one CNS and one Staff Nurse)
- Multiple Sclerosis (one CNS);
- Stroke Service (one Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP); one CNS and one CNM2.)

In addition, our neurology service works with the designated Stroke/Neurology ward in UHL, where all staff are trained to care for neurology patients in a multidisciplinary approach that also incorporates Allied Health (physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy).

Developing our Neurology Services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Colette Cowan
Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group