



19th October 2021

Mr Gino Kenny  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ ref 49980/21**

Dear Deputy Kenny

I write in response to the PQ below and have given the response beneath the PQ.

**PQ ref 49880/21**

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that based on the population number living in the catchment area of Tallaght University Hospital, national and international guidelines recommend that there should be 20 neurology nurse specialists employed in the neurology department and that there are currently 3.5 nurses; his plans to increase the level of neurology nurses at Tallaght University Hospital; the timeline for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Deputy Gino Kenny

**Response**

The Neurology service at Tallaght University Hospital current has 3.5 WTE specialised nursing posts working across areas such as Epilepsy, management of headaches and providing specialist care and surveillance to neurology patients with varying debilitating conditions. The Hospital has seen improvements in waiting time for assessment of patients referred for the management of Headache. Supported by funding from the NTPF and also a project supported through SlainteCare. This is multidisciplinary project where there has been over 650 patient appointments to date, 119 patients have been discharged back to the care of their GP's. The Nurse led clinics facilitate the Consultant neurologist to see more new patient, thus reducing waiting times further.

Additionally, TUH have 1 WTE Registered ANP and 2 WTE CNS in Stroke Care who also work collaboratively with the Neurology Team as part of our Stroke Service.



**Tallaght  
University  
Hospital**

Ospidéal  
Ollscoile  
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An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

TUH has submitted proposals for additional Nursing posts as part of the 2022 estimates. These roles will support further development in the areas of headache, epilepsy and MS.

Yours sincerely

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**MR JOHN KELLY  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**