

CC/WOD/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)

18th October 2021

Mr Willie O'Dea TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 50686/21

**\*To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that there are only three neurology nurse specialists based at the mid-west regional centre for neurology in UHL instead of the recommended 11; his plans to deal with this shortfall; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Willie O'Dea**

Dear Deputy O'Dea

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.

UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional resources within our Neurology Services.

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 has been held and interviews are scheduled to take place on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope that both these posts will be filled from this campaign.

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 specialities 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).

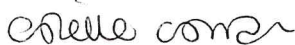
Developing our Neurology Services is a core focus for UL Hospitals Group and we are committed to improving this service for our patients.

We are aware that the Neurological Alliance of Ireland has identified a shortfall of eight neurological nurse specialists at University Hospital Limerick. However, it is important to note that UL Hospitals Group is not aware of the criteria used by the Neurological Alliance of Ireland in identifying these deficits.

UL Hospitals Group recognises the need for additional resources within our Neurology Services and we are committed to developing this service in line with population health and consistent with the model of care outlined by the National Clinical Programme for Neurology. Once resource gaps are established, UL Hospitals Group will work with the estimates process with the view to developing this service over a number of years.

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**