

CC/CC/MC

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

19<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Mr Cathal Crowe TD,  
Dáil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 40121/22

**To ask the Minister for Health the reason that funding has not been released to support the recruitment of a nurse specialist in University Hospital Limerick as part of the roll-out of the national headache pathway announced by his Department in April 2022 (details supplied). -Cathal Crowe**

**Details supplied: This post is one of sixteen specialist neurology nursing posts nationwide that were sought in the 2021 Estimates process, only 5 of which have been funded to date this year. Neurology waiting lists in University Hospital Limerick now stand at over 2,600: over 50% are waiting more than 18 months.**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

In 2021, UL Hospitals Group was approved for two additional Consultant Neurologist posts to help address the deficits within our Neurology Services. Both these posts have now been filled. There are currently five Consultant Neurologists employed at UL Hospitals Group.

UL Hospitals Group 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.

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

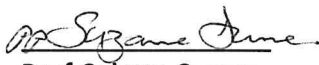
- Parkinsons (one Clinical Nurse Specialist [CNS] and two Clinical Nurse Managers [CNM2]);

- Epilepsy (two CNS)
- Multiple Sclerosis (one CNM2)
- Stroke Service (one Advanced Nurse Practitioner; one CNS and one CNM2.)

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,



**Prof Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**