

CC/KOD/MC

Email: pqmidwestacute@hse.ie

11th July 2022

Mr Kieran O'Donnell TD,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 33937/22

*** To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the plans to provide additional neurology nurse specialists in University Hospital Limerick; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Donnell

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 has 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.)

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.



Working together, caring for you

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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