



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil; Oifig an Príohoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Deputy Louise O'Reilly, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 27463/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of stroke units that operate below the recommended nurse-staffing level; the estimated cost of putting the recommended staff levels in place; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Reilly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Stroke on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

A recently published Irish National Audit of Stroke (INAS) Organisational Audit Report 2021 describes the organisation of acute hospital stroke services based on a self-reported questionnaire submitted by all hospitals providing acute stroke services in Ireland in September 2021.

Findings of this 2021 INAS Organisational Audit Report show that, out of the 24 stroke units across the country, 21 (88%) of these stroke units operate below the recommended nurse staffing level (as recommended by the European Stroke Organisation). The NCP for Stroke is working with the HSE Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) on safe staffing levels to address this issue.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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**Anne Horgan**  
**General Manager**

**Reference**

[INAS Organisational Audit Report 2021 | NOCA](https://www.noca.ie/documents/inas-organisational-audit-report-2021)

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