



**Galway  
University  
Hospitals**

*Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh*  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY  
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Galway  
Newcastle Road  
Galway  
Tel: (091) 544200**

20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

REF: PQ8035/23

RE: To ask the Minister for Health when secretarial support will be provided at the neurology clinic in UHG; if he is aware that 400 patients who have been seen at the clinic have not had their letters sent to their GPs updating them on patient information; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Seán Canney

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

In response to your query, the Neurology Department at GUH has an allocation of 4 secretarial administration posts to support 6 consultants, Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse specialists.

Due to long term sick leave and maternity leave, the administration support available to the service has been significantly reduced over the past year, with one staff member on long term sick leave since Jan 2021 and a second staff member on maternity leave since August 2022. This leaves 2 staff typing and dealing with queries from patients and GPs for the service.

Efforts are being made to fill these posts but to date we have had no success in filling the temporary vacancies. Typing support and overtime is being provided to address this issue. However, we acknowledge there is a backlog. Letters identified as urgent are being prioritised and issued to GPs.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused, efforts to address these staffing issues will continue as above.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Kane  
General Manager  
Galway University Hospitals