

9th August, 2023

FAO Deputy Jennifer Whitmore TD.

E: jennifer.whitmore@oireachtas.ie

Re: To ask the Minister for Health how much has been allocated in Budget 2023 for the training and upskilling of physiotherapists to work with patients with complex brain injury within the public health services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore,

We acknowledge receipt of your enquiry regarding the training and upskilling of Physiotherapists.

The NRH is the national centre of excellence for complex specialised rehabilitation services. In order to maintain our expert standards of care for complex rehabilitation and to provide the highest quality patient care, we endeavour to provide our staff with an effective learning environment and opportunities for continual education. Continuing staff education is essential in the provision of quality patient care in the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH), and we recognise that training and development is conducive to enhanced job performance, as well as contributing to the broader professional development of employees.

The Hospital promotes an environment of continuous learning and development to enable staff in their roles to learn new skills and to further develop and excel in their chosen profession. We are committed to investing within available resources, in the promotion of education, research, and ongoing development for all our staff to ensure we have a well-educated and trained workforce in place to deliver the highest standards of patient care and high-quality services.

All staff are provided with an opportunity to access education, training and development activities. The NRH has a well-established Educational Assistance programme in place that supports staff financially and grants leave for study and exams, in line with Hospital policy. All staff are eligible to apply for educational assistance to help fund attendance at any course/ workshops/ conferences etc required to meet their learning needs. This is agreed in conjunction with their Line Manager.

In addition, all staff complete mandatory training provided by the NRH as part of their role. Clinical staff (or Physiotherapists) engage in regular supervision as part of their Professional development which may highlight appropriate training and upskilling required to work with patients with complex rehabilitation needs.

There are some additional supports for Physiotherapy staff who have worked in the NRH since before 1st February 2012 and eligible staff are entitled to €250 on an annual basis, up to a maximum of €1,000, as a contribution towards their continued professional development.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us.



Declan Lyons, Chief Executive /
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I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely



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