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Date: 20.03.2023

Deputy Paul Kehoe TD

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Dublin 2

PQ 13298/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide an update on the 142 neurological nurses that are required to support population growth; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Paul Kehoe

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Response:

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognizes that skilled and highly trained staff add value to Neurological services and NCPN endorses the expansion of the workforce dedicated to Neurology and in line with the Neurology Model of Care (2016) and Sláintecare.

NPCN recognize that additional investment is required in various specialty areas of Neurology nursing, so NCPN plans to incrementally make submissions for funding over the next number of years in line with Hub and Spoke model for Neurology, to increase the workforce in Neurology centers nationally specifically the NCPN recognises the added value provided by Specialist nurses, particularly in the management of Headache and Epilepsy.

In this context, the NCPN supports the development of Advanced Nurse Practitioner posts in Neurology to support the management of chronic conditions including Headache, Epilepsy and other disorders.

A further submission was made in 2022 for additional posts to continue pathway development and implementation and will be considered as part of the 2023 estimates process. The finalization of the national service plan is ongoing which will determine the HSE's capacity to support new service developments

I trust this answers your question to your satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Benton

General Manager

Acute Operations