

CC/MMcN/MC

Email: pgmidwestacute@hse.ie

09th May 2023

Mr Michael McNamara TD,
Dàil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 20342/23, PQ 20344/23, PQ 20345/23, PQ 20343/23

To ask the Minister for Health how long there has been no paediatric neurologist at UHL; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

To ask the Minister for Health the services that have been provided to patients in need of paediatric neurology care at UHL in the past 12 months; the person or body that is clinically responsible for the care of such patients; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

To ask the Minister for Health when a paediatric neurologist will commence seeing patients at UHL; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

To ask the Minister for Health when the position of paediatric neurologist was advertised in the past 12 months; the steps that have been taken in the past 12 months to fill the position of paediatric consultant; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Michael McNamara

Dear Deputy McNamara,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

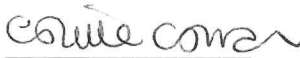
The paediatric neurologist post at University Hospital Limerick has been vacant since December 2021. This post has been advertised on four occasions in the last 12 months and we continue to look to fill it in a challenging international environment. These adverts have also been featured in both national and international medical publications including the British Medical Journal and the Irish Medical Times. In addition, these adverts have been amplified via our social media channels.

As an interim measure, we have contracted a consultant paediatric neurologist to provide outpatient paediatric neurology clinics once every 6 weeks at University Hospital Limerick for children with complex neurology needs, this initiative commenced in October 2022. In addition, there has been a locum Consultant Paediatrician covering this service since January 2022.

All EEGs carried out for paediatric patients are currently being interpreted by a Consultant Neurophysiologist from Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street.

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