



Dearadh agus Nuálaíocht Chliniciúil, Oifig an Príohoifigeach
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Deputy Catherine Murphy, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 20439/23

To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a schedule of neurology rehabilitation specialists by location in the State; and his plans to engage with the HSE with a view to the provision of increased capacity and resourcing in this specialist area.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 Rehabilitation Medicine on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Rehabilitation Medicine, as a speciality, is concerned with the prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation management of people with disabling health conditions. All Rehabilitation Consultants will have undergone recognised specialist training and are registered with the Irish Medical Council.

At present, there are 12.39 WTE Rehabilitation Medicine consultant posts approved to work clinically in the State¹. This figure includes 1 WTE consultant due to commence in June 2023. Two consultant posts are based in the South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG). The remaining consultants each have a remit to the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH), with many working across other clinical sites within the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG), the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group (DMHG), RCSI Hospital Group, CHO6 and CHO7. In addition to these figures, there is a 1 WTE academic post (i.e. non-clinical post).

Table 1 below demonstrates the low levels in Ireland in 2023, compared with other EU countries, adapted from *The British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (BSRM), Neurological Rehabilitation; A Briefing Paper for Commissioners of Clinical Neurosciences (2008)*². The British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine's benchmark for the ratio of Rehabilitation Medicine Consultants to population is a minimum of 6 consultants per 1,000,000. The target number for Ireland on this basis would be a minimum of 30 WTE posts.

Table 1:

	France	Germany	Sweden	Italy	UK	Ireland
Number of Rehabilitation Medicine Consultants	1,760	1,571	160	2,200	152	12.39

The HSE's National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine (NCP RM) published a Model of Care for the Provision of Specialist Rehabilitation Services in Ireland in 2018. A key recommendation from the NCP RM's Model of Care is the establishment of Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Networks (MCRNs). These networks will be population-based (approximately one per planned RHA) with a connected governance structure. The MCRN will provide three tiers of service complexity – tertiary complex specialist rehabilitation, local specialist rehabilitation and community specialist rehabilitation. The goal of MCRNs is to improve access for service-users, with a seamless continuum of care across the network, providing care closer to home, at the least level of complexity.

The National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy, under HSE Disability Services, is currently implementing a Demonstrator Project across CHO6 and CHO7 as a change management pilot to assess the success of this model and allow the application of any learning at a national level.

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



Anne Horgan
General Manager

¹Please note, the above consultant data is based on posts approved by the CAAC (Consultant Applications Advisory Committee) and was extracted from DIME (Doctors Integrated Management E-system) as at 12th May 2023. DIME is dependent on clinical sites inputting details on their consultant workforce and therefore there may be variances and gaps in the data supplied to that held within clinical sites. As DIME is a live system it must be noted that there can be variances in the figures published dependent on the run date of the report as entries can be made with a retrospective date.

² <https://www.bsrm.org.uk/downloads/neurorehabbriefing-paper-2-july-2008-final-rev080708.pdf>