



24 June 2025

Deputy Roderic O'Gorman, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 30231/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the WTE staffing, by job title, and funding that would be required to provide three additional early supported discharge teams in the community; and if she will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Gorman,

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

Early Supported Discharge (ESD) teams enable an accelerated discharge from the acute hospital setting for stroke patients, through the provision of specialist stroke-specific rehabilitation in the home setting. Research has shown that ESD patients spend 5-6 fewer days in hospital and are more likely to be living at home and to be independent in daily activities six months after stroke (Langhorne et al, 2017)<sup>1</sup>.

There are currently 11 ESD teams operating nationally, with funding allocated to establish four further teams in 2025. The National Clinical Programme for Stroke, as set out in the National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027<sup>2</sup>, aims to have 21 ESD teams in place nationally with the intention of covering 92% of stroke services.

Please see the table below which outlines the composition and cost of an ESD Team by WTE staffing (discipline and grade) based on international best practice<sup>2</sup>.

<b>Grade Code</b>	<b>Grade Code Description</b>	<b>Staff Category</b>	<b>Total WTE for Grade Code</b>	<b>€ Total Full year Cost [Pay &amp; Non Pay]</b>
3301	Occupational Therapist, Senior	Health & Social Care Professionals	1.00	€87,064
3158	Physiotherapist, Senior	Health & Social Care Professionals	1.00	€88,014
3379	Speech & Language Therapist, Senior	Health & Social Care Professionals	1.00	€86,999
3019	Social Worker, Senior Medical	Health & Social Care Professionals	0.50	€48,253
2632	Clinical Nurse Specialist (General)	Nursing & Midwifery	0.50	€45,173
6503	Physiotherapy Assistant	Patient & Client Care	1.00	€50,728
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>				
1 ESD Team - Total 5 WTEs				€406,232
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>				
3 ESD Teams				€1,218,695

*\*Please note this is based on the 2025 HSE salary scales, at the salary midpoint*



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

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**Anne Horgan**  
**General Manager**

#### **References**

1. Langhorne P, Baylan S. Early supported discharge services for people with acute stroke. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD000443. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000443.pub4. Accessed 10 June 2025.
2. HSE (2022) *National Stroke Strategy 2022 – 2027*. Dublin: HSE. Available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/national-stroke-strategy-2022-2027.pdf>