

General Manager's Office  
University Hospital Galway  
Newcastle Road  
Galway  
Tel: (091) 544200

30<sup>th</sup> July, 2025

REF: PQ 34147/25

RE: To ask the Minister for Health to provide details on the services currently provided for paediatric patients with epilepsy at a hospital (details supplied); the number and grade of staff that are currently attached to this service at this site; the number of staff vacancies within this service; the number of epilepsy patients currently registered with this service; the number of patients currently awaiting first consultations; and if she will make a statement on the matter.  
Catherine Connolly

Dear Deputy Connolly,

The HSE has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above.

Galway University Hospital has been designated a regional centre for Paediatric sub-specialities. The Paediatric Neurology Service is a small service provided by a small team and currently accepts referrals from the Galway-Roscommon region. Patients who attend the Paediatric Neurology Service include children with epilepsy and all other neurological disorders.

**The number and grade of staff that are currently attached to the service** at GUH include a 0.5 WTE consultant special interest in paediatric neurology and 1 WTE Neurology Nurse catering for all paediatric neurology patients; of which 50% of this WTE can cater to epilepsy care.

**There are currently no vacancies within the service.** Submissions for additional staff to support the service have been requested on multiple occasions at a national level and locally however these were not approved. There are significant demands on this service. We will continue to seek additional resources via our estimates processes or waiting list funding.

**The number of patients currently registered with this service** is over ~500 neurology patients, ~300 of whom have epilepsy. This does not include the Mayo, Sligo or Donegal cohort, which would be an equivalent number.

**The number of patients currently awaiting first consultations:** Based on data provided by CHI, there are approximately 498 paediatric neurology patients per annum from the Saolta / IHA region travelling to or awaiting review at CHI. There are approximately 100 patients awaiting review at GUH.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

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Chris Kane

General Manager  
Galway University Hospitals