



Oifig an Stiúrthóir Cúnta Náisiúnta,
Foireann Míchumais Náisiúnta,
An Chéad Urlár - Oifigí 13, 14, 15,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós, Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
Páirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta,
Caladh an Treoigh,
Luimneach.

Office of the Assistant National Director,
National Disability Team,
First Floor- Offices 13, 14, 15,
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park,
Castletroy,

7th April 2025

Deputy Barry Ward,
Dail Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: barry.ward@oireachtas.ie

Dear Deputy Ward,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

PQ: 13653/25

To ask the Minister for Health the position regarding the increase in regional inpatient neurorehabilitation beds, as committed to in the Programme for Government; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

HSE Response

The Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future' - includes a commitment for advancing Neuro-Rehabilitation services in Ireland. The Health Service Executive is leading on the implementation framework in respect of the recommendations of the National Policy and Strategy for the provision of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011-2015.

The Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework (IF) was launched in February 2019. The overarching aim of the Strategy is the development of Neuro-Rehabilitation services to improve patient outcomes by providing safe, high quality, person-centred Neuro-Rehabilitation at the lowest appropriate level of complexity. This must be integrated across the care pathway and provided as close to home as possible or in specialist centres where necessary. These services are to be configured into population based Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Networks (MCRNs). The overarching aim is the development of population based MCRN's around the country. MCRNs have been planned in full alignment with the RHA's with one network planned per RHA. Each network has access to the National Rehabilitation Hospital, has its own Regional Specialist Inpatient Neuro-Rehabilitation service and one large Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) with multiple bases throughout the RHA to manage geographical spread.

With regard to Regional Specialist Inpatient Neuro-Rehabilitation services, the aim is to establish a Regional Specialist Neuro-Rehabilitation In-patient service in each MCRN. The recommendation from the strategy is to have 60 beds per million with a minimum of 20 co-located in order to achieve critical mass.



In 2023, a national mapping of all post-acute in-patient rehabilitation was completed as a collaboration between National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine, the National Office for Trauma Services (NOTS), the National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy (NRS), the National Clinical Programme (NCP) for Stroke and the National Clinical Programme for Older People (NCPOP).

This project was commissioned to gain an objective understanding of the configuration, capacity and capability of existing post-acute inpatient rehabilitation services in Ireland. The report was launched in September 2024 and from a Neuro-Rehabilitation strategy perspective highlights a 58% shortfall of Neuro-Rehabilitation inpatient beds nationally.

The outputs of this report will also facilitate:

- The identification of existing rehabilitation beds that can be realigned to operate as part of the MCRN
- The submission of estimates bid for areas which require new development as part of future estimates bids

The HSE moved to addressing the shortfall in Neuro-Rehabilitation inpatient beds nationally through the following submissions to estimates in Budget 2025:

RHA Dublin and Midlands: Peamount Healthcare:

The HSE submitted an estimates proposal in Budget 2025 to enhance bed capacity at Peamount Healthcare, the Regional Specialist inpatient service in RHA Dublin and Midlands. This service currently has 15 specialist inpatient Neuro-Rehabilitation beds operational as part of the MCRN in this RHA and the demand for additional specialist Neuro-Rehabilitation beds is ever increasing. The proposal is to grow Peamount to 40 network beds getting closer to the minimum critical mass as recommended by the strategy.

RHA South West:

An estimates submission was submitted to Budget 2025 to develop, a 20-bedded inpatient Neuro-Rehabilitation unit in this RHA, which is the minimum number of beds co-located together as per the National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy. This RHA are currently developing their CNRT and the development of a Regional Specialist Inpatient service will complete the MCRN in this RHA.

The HSE will continue to address the shortfall in Neuro-Rehabilitation inpatient beds nationally through engagement with the Department of Health and submissions by the Regional Executive Officers to the annual budgetary process.

Yours Sincerely,

**Gerry Tully,
Assistant National Director,
Access and Integration,
Disability Services**

