



16 May 2025

Deputy Frankie Feighan, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ 22729/25

To ask the Minister for Health her plans to increase the number of consultant neurologists; when they will be recruited; where they will be based; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Feighan,

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 for Neurology (NCPN) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

Although consultant numbers in Ireland have increased, Ireland has a low number of neurologists per population at approx. 1.3:100,000 population, compared to the EU average of 9:100,000¹

There are currently ten adult neurology centres nationally, nine based in model 4 hospitals and one in a model 3 hospital (Sligo), with outreach and consultation to some other model 3 hospitals and one model 2 remote rural hospital.

To achieve the best quality care and equitable access to neurology services, the National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) envisages the formalisation of a Hub and Spoke model aligned to Health Regions. This Hub and Spoke Model arranges service delivery into a network consisting of an anchor "Hub" establishment. The Hubs should be resourced to provide a full array of neurological services, complemented by secondary establishments "Spokes" which provide neurological services for patients with less complex needs, with rapid and efficient access to the hub as required.

Funding was allocated for new service developments of neurology services in 2025, including five new consultant neurologist posts to support the hub and spoke model in the Health Regions outlined below:

Health Region	Spoke Neurology Service Location	Hub Location
HSE Dublin & Midlands	1. MRH Portlaoise	1. Tallaght University Hospital
HSE Dublin & South East	2. Wexford General	2. Waterford University Hospital
HSE South West	3. UH Kerry	3. Cork University Hospital
HSE West & North West	4. Letterkenny University	4. Sligo University Hospital
	5. Mayo University	5. University Hospital Galway

It is envisaged that these posts will be advertised in Q2-Q3 2025.

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

References:

1. Bassetti CLA, Endres M, Sander A, et al. The European Academy of Neurology Brain Health Strategy: One brain, one life, one approach. Eur J Neurol. 2022; 29: 2559-2566. doi: [10.1111/ene.15391](https://doi.org/10.1111/ene.15391)