



Ceann na Seirbhíse Míchumas
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Slainte
Seirbhísi Pobaill (An Cabhán, Dún na
nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán &
Sligeach)
Áras Isacc Butt, Bealach Féich,
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6th June, 2025

Eamon Scanlon T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ ref 22968/25

To ask the Minister for Health the reason a community neurorehabilitation team, which was promised for Sligo-Leitrim in 2019 and outlined in the 2023 HSE Service Plan, has not yet been established; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Scanlon,

Community Healthcare Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo (CH CDLMS) Disability Services have been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Programme for Government – 'Our Shared Future' - includes a commitment for advancing neuro-rehabilitation services in the community. 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 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 MCRNs around the country.

I am advised that funding was secured for a 12 WTE Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) in HSE Galway, Roscommon and Mayo (the former Community Healthcare West area), HSE South West, HSE Dublin South and Wicklow and HSE Dublin South West, South City and West and Kildare West Wicklow. Recruitment is progressing for these teams and moving toward on-boarding of staff.

There are two CNRTs in existence in HSE Donegal and HSE Mid-West that pre-date the 2019 Neuro-Rehabilitation strategy. Estimates bids were submitted by national HSE to the Budget 2025 process to uplift these existing teams. There is currently no CNRT operational in HSE Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South, Waterford/Wexford, HSE Midlands and HSE Dublin and North East. Estimates bids were submitted to Budget 2025 to fund a CNRT in those IHAs/RHA that do not have a CNRT including an uplift to the existing CNRT in Donegal to be extended to serve the Sligo/Leitrim area as a North West CNRT.

Moving forward with the strategy, the plan will be to enhance the existing CNRTs, fund those IHAs/RHA that do not have a CNRT and to create a large population-based CNRT within each Regional Health Area (RHA) following the implementation of the new RHAs under the Slaintecare programme.

The Disability Action Plan outlines a CNRT of 18 WTE staff per Community Healthcare Organisation by 2026 to be reconfigured into one larger CNRT per RHA. Estimates bids will be submitted by the HSE to Budget 2026 processes to enhance existing CNRTs and to fund CNRTs in those IHAs/RHAs that do not have funding for CNRT.

The HSE continues to engage with DCDE through the annual budgetary process to secure the necessary funding to establish CNRTs on the principle that there needs to be equity of access for those who need CNRT services regardless of where they live.

As per the 2025 National Service Plan the HSE is committed to developing CNRTs in line with the Neuro-Rehabilitation Implementation Framework (2019).

In the Sligo Leitrim area, the following are some of the supports available for people with neurological needs:

1. The Transitional Living Unit (TLU) - this is a residential Monday to Friday rehabilitation service and also provides rehabilitation assistance supports to individuals in their own home in line with their assessed needs. The TLU operates as a partnership with the HSE and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Ireland through a Service Arrangement contract. The local ABI Service Manager, who is also the Person In Charge, manages the TLU in line with the regulatory requirements as monitored by the Health Information & Quality Authority.
2. A standalone ABI Ireland Resource Centre in Sligo town.
3. The HSE Physical and Sensory (P&S) Disability Service, which provides a case coordination and Social Work Service to people with a physical or sensory disability. The P&S Disability Service Team operates in conjunction with voluntary providers, such as Vision Ireland. As with the TLU, the P&S Service also provides case coordination and Occupational Therapy input into the Community Brain Injury Team.
4. There are a number of HSE funded and part funded organisations and groups in the Sligo Leitrim area which also provide a range of resources to meet the needs of people with diagnosed neurological conditions. These include:

➤ The Multiple Sclerosis North West Therapy Centre

- Vision Ireland
- CHIME, the hearing support group
- The Motor Neurone Disease Association
- The Neurology Support Centre

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,

Edel Quinn
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Community Services Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Monaghan, Sligo
Seirbhísi Pobail An Cabhán, Dún na nGall, Liatroim, Muineachán & Sligeach