



**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,**
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21st May 2025

Deputy Pádraig Mac Lochlainn,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.
E-mail: pádraig.maclochlainn@oireachtas.ie

PQ: 25627/25

To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality if funding will be provided in this year's Budget to fully staff the community neurorehabilitation team for the north-west in line with the Programme for Government commitment to complete the roll out of community neurorehabilitation teams across the country.

Details supplied: A fully staffed community neurorehabilitation team for the North West has been promised since 2019 with the publication of the Implementation Framework for the National Neurorehabilitation Strategy. A further a commitment in the 2024 HSE service plan to establish a fully staffed community neurorehabilitation team in the North West was never delivered. Community neurorehabilitation teams of 12 whole time equivalent staff are being established this year in the South, West and East of the country. In the North West, the existing team is only funded for less than 3 staff to serve a similar population.

Dear Deputy Mac Lochlainn,

Thank you for your Parliamentary Question referenced above, which has been forwarded to me for direct reply.

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 (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). A principal aim is the development of population based MCRN's around the country.

Funding was secured for a 12 WTE Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Team (CNRT) in HSE Galway, Roscommon and Mayo, 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 onboarding.

There are two CNRTs in existence in HSE Donegal and HSE Mid West that predate the strategy. Estimates bids were submitted to Budget 2025 to uplift these existing teams.



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

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

The HSE continues to engage with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) through the annual budgetary process to secure the necessary funding to establish this essential service in such a way that there is equity of access for those who need it regardless of where they live.

As per the 2025 National Service Plan, the HSE is committed to develop Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Teams (CNRTs) in line with the *Neuro-Rehabilitation Implementation Framework* (2019) and enhance capacity for its implementation nationally

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Aoife O'Donohue,
Stiúrthóir Náisiúnta Cúntóir, Seirbhísí Mhíchumas, Rochtain agus Imeascadh,
Assistant National Director, Disability Services, Transformation & Programme Coordination, Access & Integration.