



10th October 2025

Deputy James Geoghegan TD.,
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2
E: james.geoghegan@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 49887/25: To ask the Minister for Health to provide details on the services currently provided for adult patients with epilepsy at a hospital (St. Vincent's Hospital); the number and grade of staff that are currently attached to this service at this site; the number of current 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.

Dear Deputy Geoghegan

I refer to the above parliamentary question which was sent to me for direct response.

I have had this matter examined and am advised of the following:

- In terms of staffing three Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP) have been approved for Nursing: the first commenced their post on October 3rd 2025; the second post is due to commence on 13th October and the third is currently in pre-screening. There are no other vacant nursing posts for Epilepsy.
- There is not a specific Consultant in post that specialises in Epilepsy for SVUH.
- There are currently 2,597 patients on the outpatient waiting list for Neurology with an average waiting time of 455 days (median 419), however this covers all Neurology conditions. Unfortunately, without a designated Epilepsy specialist consultant, specific referrals or waiting lists for this service cannot be tracked or confirmed.
- There are 655 unique patients who have attended or been booked to nurse led Epilepsy clinic codes over the last three years, although these are primarily return patients. This does not reflect patients who are seen or identified as having epilepsy within other neurology clinics - on the Electronic Patient Records system there are 3,261 people registered to general clinics with epilepsy.
- Phone consult clinics for unscheduled Epilepsy care supported 1,359 phone advice following patients who had seizures at home in 2024. To date this year (January-August 2025) there has been 1,204 phone advice activity supporting epilepsy services.



Yours sincerely

Pauline McGrath,
Chief Executive Officer.