

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Deputy Catherine Murphy, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**RE: PQ 54468/23**

**To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a schedule of headings under which the €7.3 million funding for the National Stroke Strategy was spent on in 2023.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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

As outlined in the HSE's National Service Plan (NSP)<sup>1</sup>, the HSE received approval and funding of €3.6m for non-pay initiatives. In addition, it received approval, without specific funding, for pay-related initiatives up to a maximum of €1.3m in part-year costs.

The HSE's Stroke Strategy did not get an allocation of €7.3 million funding in 2023.

Investment towards implementation of the stroke strategy commenced in 2023, with approved level of expenditure for HSE, as outlined in the 2023 Letter of Determination, to deliver key priority actions in 2023. As a consequence, the following has been progressed:

**Pillar 1 – Prevention (non-pay):** Agreement was reached between the Department of Health (DOH), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Irish Medical Organisation (IMO) to include primary care-delivered case finding and treatment strategy for Hypertension Stage 1 in over 45-year olds in the HSE's Chronic Disease Management Programme in General Practice (CDMP in GP).

It is intended that this will be available to patients in Q1 2024.

**Pillar 2 - Acute Care and Cure (pay):** Pillar 2 of the HSE's National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027 set out to improve access to specialist acute stroke care. Two consultant stroke physicians and 1 senior speech and language therapist were recruited in 2023 in the acute sector to improve access to both acute stroke assessment and treatment.

This pillar also sought to improve access to endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) for stroke patients with large vessel occlusion by expanding interventional neuroradiology services in Cork University Hospital (CUH) in 2023. A Consultant Neuro-Radiologist was successfully recruited to improve access to this endo-vascular thrombectomy (EVT) service.

**Pillar 3 - Rehabilitation and Restoration to Life (pay):** The HSE's National Stroke Strategy 2022-2027 has a planned 3-year phased implementation plan for the expansion of ESD teams. The implementation plan target is to have a total of 21 ESD teams in place to cover 92% of stroke services.

Phase 1 of ESD service expansion aimed to consolidate six existing teams to ensure consistent delivery of services and sustainability of ESD services at existing sites, in addition to expansion to four new sites. These sites comprise St James's Hospital, Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, St Vincent's University Hospital and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.

Improved access to ESD at these four new sites was achieved in 2023, allowing more patients to return home from hospital earlier than usual, and also to receive more rehabilitation in the familiar environment of their own home.

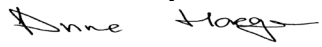
**Pillar 4 - Education and Research, including public information campaign (non-pay):** HSE funding has been used to support a two-stage public awareness FAST campaign in 2023, in collaboration with Irish Heart Foundation (IHF). The NCP Stroke has also engaged support of HSE Communications Division for future public awareness campaigns.

Outputs from the HSE-funded IHF FAST campaign in 2023 include:

- 1,602,000 adults heard the radio advertisement;
- Production of a YouTube video, which received 388,505 video views;
- Social media advertisements, which reached an audience of over 1.8 million people.

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. <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/serviceplans/national-service-plan-2023.pdf>

