



Grúpa Ospidéal
Oirthear na hÉireann



10th May 2024

Deputy Steven Matthews T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2
E: steven.matthews@oireachtas.ie

Re: PQ 15526/24 – Neurology services, Wexford General Hospital

“To ask the Minister for Health further to Parliamentary Question No. 1462 of 20 March 2024, if his attention has been drawn to a recent response from the HSE that indicates there are no current plans to expand the provision of local neurology services including access to a consultant neurologist in Wexford General Hospital (details supplied); if he is concerned about the gap in service provision this has for this region; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Matthews,

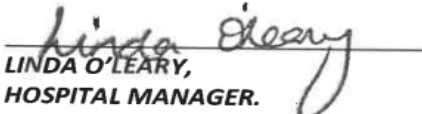
I refer to the above and I wish to advise that Wexford General Hospital does not have a Neurologist employed at the hospital, nor does it provide Neurology in-patient or out-patient services.

In line with the Model of Care for Neurology, as outlined in the National Clinical Programme for Neurology, the Model of Care recognises that there are currently eleven Neurology Centres nationally with outreach and consultation to a number of other Model 3 and Model 4 hospitals. For the purposes of the Model of Care, a Neurology Centre is defined as having a Consultant Neurologist with a corresponding MDT, the team comprising the required range of HSCPs and Nurses on staff.

It is noted that currently there is a significant variance across centres with respect to the size of the centre, with some sites having a single Neurologist and others having up to five Neurologists on staff. The Neurology Programme recommends that Neurology Services across all Hospital Groups are developed to ensure equitable access in both in-patient and out-patient services. The Model of Care also notes that a single-handed Neurologist working in isolation is not recommended and that there are numerous hospitals around the country with no access to Neurology, either on site or via outreach. In these hospitals demand is placed on non-Neurologist Consultants to assess and treat patients who present or who are admitted with neurological conditions.

As you will note from above, the establishment of a Neurology Service requires an MDT approach, which would require resourcing and funding to develop a service at Wexford General Hospital. Perhaps with the establishment of the Regional Health Authorities and the appointment of the Regional Executive Officer for Dublin and South East, an opportunity may present to review Neurology Service provision within this area.

Yours sincerely,


LINDA O'LEARY,
HOSPITAL MANAGER.



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