

Cork University Hospitals Group
Wilton
Cork
T12 DC4A
Tel: 021 – 4922473

Date: 8th May 2024

PQ – 18031/24

Deputy Aindrias Moynihan
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

To ask the Minister for Health if can provide details of the current levels of staffing for Cork University Hospital's paediatric epilepsy services; the number of positions which are currently vacant; the number of recruitment processes which are underway to fill these vacancies; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Moynihan

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the oflUser8708

There are two funded consultant paediatric neurology posts at CUH. One post is currently filled by a locum consultant after the retirement in March '24 of a permanent consultant neurologist who had worked for 20 years in the service. There is recent approval from CAAC to recruit a permanent replacement paediatric neurologist. This post will be progressed to recruitment with PAS in the coming weeks. Unfortunately there is a national shortage of trained paediatric neurologists with recent recruitment campaign for similar posts elsewhere going unfilled.

The second post is vacant as that permanent consultant has been on unanticipated sick leave since February '24. We are informed that they will not be returning from sick leave until September '24. We have sought another locum to temporarily fill this post but there are not currently available locum consultants trained in paediatric neurology.

The first paediatric neurologist who retired in March has agreed to come back and run 3 neurology out-patient clinics a week for a few months to support the service.

The paediatric neurology service has one Advanced Nurse Practitioner (in-post) and is funded for 3 clinical nurse specialists (CNS). Two of those three CNS posts have been vacant for >3months due to maternity leave. We have been unable to recruit temporary maternity leave cover into the vacant CNS posts because of the national recruitment embargo. Derogation has been sought on multiple occasions without success.

I trust this information if of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,


PP Alison Harvey

Mr. David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer