

CC/NC/MC

Email: [pqmidwestacute@hse.ie](mailto:pqmidwestacute@hse.ie)14<sup>th</sup> May 2024Mr Niall Collins TD  
Dàil Eireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2**PQ 18803/24****To ask the Minister for Health for an update regarding current staffing levels of paediatric epilepsy services at University Hospital Limerick; the number of current vacancies which may exist within the service; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Niall Collins**

Dear Minister Collins,

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.

The paediatric nursing team at UL Hospitals Group supports patients and their families with the management of epilepsy. This team is comprised of a clinical nurse specialist and a candidate advanced nurse practitioner who specialise in neuro-disability. These nursing staff provide inpatient, outpatient and virtual support to families of children with neuro-disabilities.

Ongoing support is provided by UL Hospitals Group to parents/carers in the management of seizures. This involves in-person/virtual consultations on anti-seizure medications and liaising with medical professionals within University Hospital Limerick or other established paediatric neurology services in Dublin/Cork.

The clinical nurse specialist and candidate advanced nurse practitioner also support children who do not have a neuro-disability diagnosis but have a diagnosis of epilepsy.

The consultant paediatric neurology post at University Hospital Limerick has been vacant since December 2021. This post has been advertised on a number of occasions and we continue to look to fill it in a challenging international environment.

As an interim measure, we have contracted a consultant paediatric neurologist to provide outpatient clinics to children with complex neurology needs. We have increased the frequency of these clinics from once every six weeks to once every five weeks. There has also been a locum consultant paediatrician covering this service since January 2022.

All EEGs carried out for paediatric patients are interpreted by a Consultant Neurophysiologist from Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



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**Ms Colette Cowan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**UL Hospitals Group**