

29<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Deputy Paul Kehoe, TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

## PQ 18991/24

**To ask the Minister for Health what plans are in place for the recruitment of a consultant neurologist for Wexford hospital and a dedicated outpatient neurology service, as recommended in the 2016 National Model of Care for Neurology Services in Ireland; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in relation to the above representation, which you submitted to the HSE for response. I have consulted with the National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) on your question and have been informed that the following outlines the position.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognises that neurological care should be equitably distributed across the country, so that there is no difference in service provision based on geographical area. This is one of the core principles of the HSE's National Clinical Programme for Neurology Model of Care (2016)<sup>1</sup>. This Model of Care recommends that neurology services are developed in all model 3 and 4 hospitals.

There are currently 10 neurology centres nationally, with outreach and consultation to a number of model 3 hospitals.

From March 2024, Wexford General Hospital formed part of the HSE's newly aligned Dublin and South East Health Region.

Currently, specialist neurological care for the adult population is not provided to Wexford General Hospital.

The nearest neurological centres providing specialist neurological care within this health region (with a minimum of 3 consultant neurologists) are:

- University Hospital Waterford
- St. Vincent's University Hospital Dublin

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) recognises that patients with neurological conditions in Wexford's greater area have to travel significant distances for neurology appointments and treatment and this does not align to the programme's 2016 model of care.

In order to address this gap, the National Clinical Programme for Neurology is actively working on a 'Hub and Spoke' model proposal for neurological care throughout the country, which will align with the newly formed health region areas.

The National Clinical Programme for Neurology (NCPN) continues to advocate for investment in a Hub and Spoke model of care for neurological services, as outlined in its model of care<sup>1</sup>.

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/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/neurology-model-of-care.pdf>

