

**THE NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE OF IRELAND IS CALLING FOR INVESTMENT IN SERVICES FOR THE 800,000<sup>1</sup> IRISH PEOPLE LIVING WITH NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.**



**DEMANDING ACTION ON NEUROLOGICAL CARE: GENERAL ELECTION 2020**

**KEY ASKS OF POLITICAL PARTIES FOR ELECTION 2020**

- Increase consultant neurologist staffing in regional neurology centres and appoint additional clinical nurse specialists in multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy & rare conditions
- Implement the three-year framework for the neurorehabilitation strategy<sup>2</sup>, prioritising investment in community neurorehabilitation services
- Address the funding shortfall in Section 39 organisations providing critical services to people with neurological conditions and their families

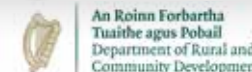
**Our network of over thirty member organisations will be supporting us in our call for these commitments to be included in the next Programme for Government.**

Acquired Brain injury Ireland  
Alzheimer Society of Ireland  
An Saol  
Aphasia Ireland  
Ataxia Ireland  
Aware  
Bloomfield Health Services  
Cheshire Ireland  
Chronic Pain Ireland  
Dystonia Ireland  
Enable Ireland  
Epilepsy Ireland

Headway  
Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland  
Irish Heart Foundation  
Irish Hospice Foundation  
Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association  
Migraine Association of Ireland  
Move4Parkinsons  
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland  
Muscular Dystrophy Ireland  
Neurofibromatosis Association of Ireland  
North West MS Therapy Centre  
Parkinson's Association of Ireland

Polio Survivors Ireland  
PSPA Ireland  
Syringomyelia Support group of Ireland  
Spinal Injuries Ireland  
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland  
The Rehab Group

**Associate Members**  
Irish Association of Speech and Language Therapists  
Myaware



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## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Over 800,000 Irish people are living with neurological conditions such as stroke, dementia, acquired brain injury, migraine, epilepsy and rare and genetic conditions.

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Review of Neurology and Neurophysiology Services in Ireland (2007) National Hospitals Office, Health Services Executive

<sup>2</sup> National Policy and Strategy for the Provision of Neurorehabilitation Services in Ireland; implementation framework 2019-2021 (2019) Health Services Executive

<sup>3</sup> Outpatient waiting lists by Speciality (December 2019) National Treatment Purchase Fund [www.ntpf.ie](http://www.ntpf.ie)

### Underinvestment in Neurological Services

Outpatient waiting lists to see a neurologist now stand at over 22,000, the highest ever, with unacceptable waiting times between appointments<sup>3</sup>. Consultant staffing levels in regional neurology centres are totally inadequate. Clinical nurse specialists are vital to managing ongoing care needs but Ireland lags far behind recommended staffing numbers.

	Number of Clinical Nurse Specialists in Ireland	Recommended
Multiple Sclerosis	12	30
Parkinsons Disease	3	30
Epilepsy	21	35

### Failure to Implement Policy on Neurorehabilitation

There is an overwhelming unmet need for neurorehabilitation services across Ireland with less than half the inpatient beds required for our population as well as a dearth of appropriate residential, day, and vocational services and multidisciplinary therapy teams in the community. There has been no investment to support the implementation of a three year framework for neurorehabilitation services published in February 2019.

### Threat to Vital Services Provided by Section 39 (Health & Disability) Organisations

People with neurological conditions and their families are completely reliant on not for profit organisations for long term specialist care and support to live with their condition. These organisations are under serious pressure due to increasing running costs, including insurance, and shortfalls in HSE funds that don't cover the cost of providing services. Many organisations have been forced to cut services to stay afloat as a last resort having made cuts in every other area possible.