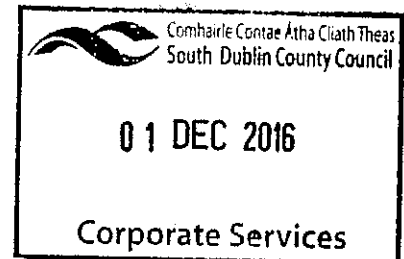




Ref: AL170

24th November 2016

Ms Colm Murphy
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin
County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



Dear Colm,

Finian McGrath T.D., Minister for Disabilities, has asked me to refer to your recent letter concerning health services for people with neurological conditions.

The Programme for Partnership Government includes a commitment to publish "a plan for advancing Neuro-rehabilitation services in the community".

The Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Health have long appreciated the need to review the situation with regard to access to specialist rehabilitation services. Significant steps towards a resolution were taken with the publication in 2011 of the *National Policy and Strategy for the Provision of Neuro-rehabilitation Services in Ireland 2011 - 2015* and with the development of the Rehabilitation Medicine Programme within the Clinical Strategy and Programmes Directorate of the HSE.

A National Steering Group, chaired by the Head of HSE Disability Services Reform Team, with representation from the Department of Health, Primary Care, Social Care, the National Clinical Programme for Rehabilitation Medicine and the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, has completed an implementation framework in respect of the recommendations from the National Policy and Strategy. The Group is currently considering feedback on the implementation framework which was circulated to wider stakeholder interest groups for consultation.



Reaching agreement on the implementation framework is important as the framework will guide and oversee the reconfiguration and development of Neuro-rehabilitation structures and services at national and local level.

In addition, capital funding is committed for the re-development of the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire. This funding will provide a new purpose built 120 bed hospital with integrated therapy and support services on the Dun Laoghaire campus.

The funding allocation for the Disability Services Programme for 2017 is over €1.654 billion, an increase of €92 million on the allocation for 2016. The quantum of service to be provided will be outlined in the Health Service Executive's (HSE's) National Service Plan for 2017, which is currently being prepared by the Executive. Pending agreement of the National Service Plan, the Minister is not in a position to comment on the specific allocation.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Adrian McLaughlin
Private Secretary to
Finian McGrath T.D.
Minister for Disabilities