

## Parkinson's Ireland Election Campaign 2024

### About Parkinson's Disease (PD)

PD is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world.

There are approximately 15,000 people living with PD in Ireland. This is projected to double by 2040. PD is a progressive neurological condition which causes a variety of motor and non-motor symptoms. There is currently no cure for PD.

### What we do

Parkinson's Ireland (PI) provides a range of services and supports, both locally and nationally to people living with PD, their families and care partners.

Our work also includes raising awareness of the condition, providing information and advice, research, and advocating on a variety of issues which impact on people with PD, their families and care partners.

*"Since I was diagnosed with Parkinson's in July 2023, Parkinson's Ireland has given me enormous help in managing my symptoms."* Brenda O'Connell – person with PD

### Why our work matters

Our work helps to keep people well and out of hospital. Our work also aids longer-term rehabilitation after a hospital stay. Without our services, there would be massive pressure on a health system that is already under-resourced.

### Our funding

Currently PI only receives €70,000 in government funding for the whole of Ireland.

This amounts to less than 10% of our overall income. On average, the other major neurological charities receive over 50% of their overall income from the government.

Government funding	
Parkinson's Ireland	10% of total income
Other neurological charities	50% of total income (on average)

We are calling for this disparity to be ended.

We are calling on the government to provide sustainable funding to PI.

As Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition and demand for services is increasing, it is critical that this is addressed urgently.



## Our five asks

1.

An increase in government funding for our services including our PD nurses, and funding for other allied health professional services such as physiotherapy, speech therapy, counselling and dietitians.

2.

The full rollout of the Community Neurorehabilitation Teams in all regions by the end of 2025.

3.

Additional neurologist outreach services in 5 hospitals which don't currently have a neurologist: Letterkenny, Wexford, Bantry, Portlaoise and Castlebar.

4.

Funding for additional PD nurse posts has been announced in recent budgets. Most of these posts have yet to be filled. We ask that these posts are filled as soon as possible.

5.

Investment into research on the links between exposure to pesticides and PD. In addition, investment should be made into education around safety measures which should be taken when using pesticides, such as the wearing of masks and gloves.

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Find us on:

