

My Address:

Date: _____

Dear _____

Re: Parkinson's Disease

I am writing to you as one of your constituents and as a member of Parkinson's Ireland (PI), ahead of the general election, to express my concern regarding issues that are important to me.

There are currently 18,000 people with Parkinson's in Ireland. Parkinson's Disease is the fastest growing neurological condition, with the number diagnosed expected to double by 2040.

PI is the main charity for people with Parkinson's Disease, their loved ones, and care partners. PI has a range of national and local services. These services include a freephone Parkinson's nurse helpline, online classes and local in-person classes and support groups.

On average, the other major neurological charities receive over 50% of their overall income from the government. PI received less than 10% of its total income from the government in 2023 and has no guaranteed annual government funding.

As a member of PI, I am calling on you to address the following five issues that PI have outlined in their election document:

1. An increase in government funding for PI's services including nurses, and funding for other 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. To provide funding for Parkinson's Ireland to set up a counselling service.
4. Funding for additional PD nurse and consultant neurologist posts have been announced in recent budgets. Most of these posts have yet to be filled. These posts need to be filled as soon as possible.
5. Investment in research, including the link between pesticides and Parkinson's.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding these issues.

Yours sincerely,