



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

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Our Ref: 32515/10

Ms. Deirdre Clune, T.D.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

29th September 2010

To ask the Minister for Health and Children the average waiting times for orthodontic assessment and treatment services for children on a county basis; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

- Deirdre Clune

Dear Deputy Clune,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (Reference No: 32515/10), which you submitted to the Minister for Health and Children for response.

The Deputy may be aware that Orthodontic waiting lists are currently monitored by region. A system is being developed to track waiting list and quality initiatives on a national basis. The initial focus will be on clinical validation of waiting lists to prioritise those who require early intervention and ensure that they're assessed and treated appropriately. The initiatives will be piloted, evaluated and then rolled out in a phased manner. The planning for the initial pilot is currently underway.

Outlined in the tables below, is the number of patients awaiting orthodontic assessment; orthodontic treatment and the average wait time by region.

Orthodontic Assessment Waiting List		
HSE Area	Number of Patients Waiting	Average Waiting Time (months)
South Western	510	3-6 months
East Coast	388	3 months
Midland	699	6-12 months
Northern	671	8-10 months
North Eastern	168	2.5 – 3 months
Mid Western	1688	24-36 months
North Western	690	9 months
Western	1031	6 months
South Eastern	301	4 months
Southern	3455	12 months - Children are not considered for assessment until they reach 12 years of age approx.
Total	9601	

Orthodontic Treatment Waiting List				
HSE Area	Grade 5 formerly Category A	Waiting time (Months)	Grade 4 formerly Category B	Waiting time (Months)
South Western	562	15 months	756	26 months
East Coast	375	18 months	505	36 months
Midland	347	6 months	712	18 months
Northern	828	12 months	576	48 months
North Eastern	550	14-36 months	339	14-36 months
Mid Western	0	0	1191	24-36 months
North Western	189	10 months	344	36 months
Western	0	0	993	36 months
South Eastern	0	0	1437	24 months
Southern	202	Earliest possible appointment	2942	42 months
Total	3053		9795	

It should be noted that figures for the South are particularly high due to a number of issues including staff moratorium and staff bereavement.

Due to the unexpected death of a Consultant Orthodontist in the South, patients had to be reassigned to other dentists and specialists care. The South area is adhering, to the strategy outlined to the Oireachtas in 2006, of having Consultant and Specialist led and delivered care. In addition, a new Consultant Orthodontist has recently been appointed in the South.

I trust this clarifies the situation for you.

Kind Regards

Dympna Kavanagh
National Lead on Oral Health
Integrated Services
Performance & Financial Management