



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An
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18th April, 2019

Deputy Gerry Adams
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

RE PQ 16614/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for a public dental assessment in County Louth; the number waiting for 6, 12 and 18 months or longer, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Adams,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question and Representation, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows.

The HSE Dental Service in Louth and Meath provide dental treatment to children aged up to their 16th birthday and patients with special care needs. The service provides oral health care to children in a targeted manner, by providing oral health assessments initially and then dental treatment indicated following the assessment. The current target groups are those children in 6th and 1st class in the 2018/19 school year. An emergency service is also provided to eligible children outside these target groups. Oral Health prevention and treatment are provided in primary care settings.

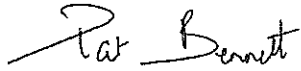
At the beginning of the school year parents and guardians are asked to complete consent forms distributed through the schools if they wish their child to have an oral health assessment. The children are then called in turn, usually by school throughout the year. The numbers of children who have had their oral health assessment as of 31st of March 2019 and of those who are still to be called from this year's cohort are given below in the following table.

Target Class	Numbers	Screened	Waiting
1st Class	2456	466	1990
6th Class	2321	1080	1241

As all of the consent forms for oral health assessments are sent out to parents in September and are returned in the main by the end of October those waiting are therefore waiting approximately 6 months for their oral health assessment. Patients who contact the Service requesting an emergency appointment are given an appointment following triage and are not placed on waiting lists.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Pat Bennett

Pat Bennett
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath CHO