



18 February 2019

Deputy Bernard J Durkan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 5661/19: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons that obtained dental and or optical benefits in each of the past three years to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Durkan,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

The below table details the number of persons, that obtained dental benefits, in each of the past three years to date.

Year	This figure is the number of unique GMS persons treated.	Number of person's eligible*	Percentage Uptake
2016	408,746	1,320,175	30.96%
2017	412,789	1,265,977	32.61%
2018	389,786	1,238,549	31.47%

*Eligible Population – DTSS eligibility is limited to medical cards holders aged 16 years and over.

While there was a reduction in the number of persons that obtained dental benefits over the past three years, there was also a reduction in the number of persons eligible and percentage uptake for the Dental Treatment Services Scheme.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations