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Deputy Bernard Durkan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 21159/19

Re: To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which orthodontic treatment continues to be made available as appropriate for children and or teenagers that require such treatment; the number of cases treated in each of the past ten 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.

Assessment for Orthodontic Treatment with the HSE's Orthodontic Service is carried out through a clinical examination that includes the use of the Modified Index of Treatment Need (Modified IOTN). Consultant Orthodontists leading orthodontic services prioritise children with the greatest need for treatment.

There is deficit in capacity in the provision of Orthodontic Service in respect of the identified needs. The Orthodontic Services are taking all measures possible to address the waiting lists. A waiting list initiative to deal with long waiting times for access to orthodontic treatment commenced in 2016 and to date has enabled treatment for an additional 1,489 of the longest waiting patients

Metadata for *the number of orthodontic patients receiving active treatment at the end of the reporting period* is available from 2010 and these figures have been addressed in the table below.

YEAR	NUMBER OF ORTHODONTIC PATIENTS RECEIVING ACTIVE TREATMENT AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD
2010	17249
2011 * Please note full returns for Q4 2011 not available	12572*
2012	18362
2013	21048
2014	19717
2015	15460
2016	18750
2017 (Q3) ** Please note full returns for Q4 2017 not available	16758**
2018	17369
2019 (Q1)	16772

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