



Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Seirbhísí Cúram Príomhúil
An Cabhán, Muineachán, Sligeach, Liatroim & Dún na nGall

Head of Service, Primary Care
Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal

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25th October, 2019

Deputy Niamh Smyth TD
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 42647/19: To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of dental services for post-primary children in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the days the service is in operation; his plans to increase resources in this area to allow for an extension of this service and hours provided per week in either county; and if same will be implemented to cover annual leave.

Dear Deputy Smyth,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE targets children in Primary School. These are prioritised as follows, resources permitting, 6th, 2nd class and 4th class, in that order. Emergency dental care for relief of dental pain, dental infection or dental trauma is otherwise available to all children.

Cavan Monaghan Dental Services currently operate as follows:

Co. Cavan:

Ballyconnell (Monday & Wednesday, and as required additional dental hygienist clinics)
Cavan Town (Monday to Friday)
Cootehill (Monday to Thursday with additional hygienist clinic on a Friday as required)
Virginia (Tuesday, Thursday Friday and hygienist clinic on Monday).

Co. Monaghan:

Ballybay (Monday & Wednesday with additional hygienist clinic on a Thursday as required).
Carrickmacross (Thursday & Friday)
Monaghan Town (Monday to Friday)

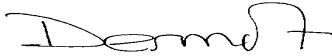
Cavan Monaghan Dental Services provide emergency dental care to eligible post primary schoolchildren and are not unique in this regard. Dental services also cater for vulnerable groups such as special needs (including adults) with disability, medically compromised, as well as new cohorts such as refugees, asylum seekers etc, and care under dental general anaesthesia.

In relation to staff annual leave, it is a standard practice that arrangements are made to provide emergency care at other locations. It is not feasible to provide locum cover though redeployment of staff for periods of relatively short annual leave from within existing resources without dislocating services at other locations.

The provision of a broader and more comprehensive service in a rural area such as Cavan Monaghan requires additional resources. The service has identified the need for at least two additional dental teams (a team being a dental surgeon and a dental nurse) and will develop the service in line with the new National Oral Health Policy announced earlier this year.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dermot'.

Dermot Monaghan,
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