



Mr. Thomas P. Broughan, TD
Dáil Éireann,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

21st October 2019

PQ 38776/19 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of children waiting for a dental appointment at 31 December 2018 and 13 September 2019 in the CHO Area 9; and if he will make a statement on the matter. – Thomas P. Broughan

Dear Deputy Broughan,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

DNCC Dental operate a schools programme school children and children with special needs (who would normally be seen annually). This programme provides a dental examination and associated treatments/prevention for 6th, 2nd and 4th classes and coincides with key dental development stages. 6th class are the first to be prioritised because this will be their last assessment and secondly to detect orthodontic anomalies that could cause issues if not picked up. 2nd are the next class as it is their first assessment with the service and 4th class are the last. However, missing 4th class means that there could be a higher treatment need in 6th class as well as not assessing potential orthodontic issues earlier.

Due to staffing issues and a growing population, Dublin North has been unable to examine 4th class for the last 2 years. Balbriggan has been cited as the fastest growing population in Ireland. This has an obvious impact on the service and the area has not been allocated additional staff to cope with this increased workload. These children will be seen in 6th class.

Figures for School Children & Children with Special Needs

| Sept 2019 | 0 – 12 Weeks | 12 – 26 Weeks | 26 – 52 Weeks | >52 Weeks |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Dublin North | 8020 + 4 th Class | | | |
| Dublin North Central & North West | 13777 | | | |
| Total | 21797 | | | |

| Jan 2019 | 0 – 12 Weeks | 12 – 26 Weeks | 26 – 52 Weeks | >52 Weeks |
|---|---|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Dublin North | 5556 (exc 4 th class, approx. 4000) | | | |
| Dublin North Central & North West | 0 | 7646 | | |
| Total | 5556 | 7646 | | |

Figures for those awaiting Treatment (Oral Surgery, General Anaesthetic, Hygienist)

| Sept 2019 | 0 – 12 Weeks | 12 – 26 Weeks | 26 – 52 Weeks | >52 Weeks |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Dublin North | 71 | | | |
| Dublin North Central & North West | 141 | 19 | 15 | |
| Total | 212 | 19 | | |

| Jan 2019 | 0 – 12 Weeks | 12 – 26 Weeks | 26 – 52 Weeks | >52 Weeks |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Dublin North | 32 | | | |
| Dublin North Central & North West | 115 | 43 | 29 | |
| Total | 147 | 43 | 29 | |

Figures are collated regarding school numbers at various points throughout the school year. January 2019 was the closest month to December 2018 which could be provided. The figures from September onwards will naturally decrease as the school year goes on.

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



Des O'Flynn
Head of Service Primary Care