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Donnchadh O' Laoghaire T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 43840/20

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists who have been employed for the school dental service in Cork in each of the past ten years"

Dear Deputy O'Laoghaire,

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 Primary Care Dental services team provides a range of services including dental treatment services to eligible children, medical card holders, special needs clients and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork city and county. A school screening dental service which targets pupils in 2nd and 6th classes is also provided. The number of dental surgeons currently employed in this service is 30.3 WTE, with some of these staff continuing to be redeployed to Covid swabbing. The HSE also has a service arrangement with the Cork University Dental School and Hospital for the provision of a number of services including a school screening programme.

The service has been reorganised a number of times in the last ten years to ensure the funded resource is deployed in the most appropriate way to meet the priority needs in adherence with the most recent standards for a safe and quality service.

CKCH received National Director of Community Operations approval for the filling of a number of Dental Surgeon posts in Cork in early 2020 and the recruitment process for the filling of these vacancies commenced. However, the emergence of Covid -19 in mid- March 2020 disrupted all services in the HSE and the recruitment process was suspended. Interviews are now scheduled to fill these vacant posts in early January 2021.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Teresa O' Donovan
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare