

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Office of Head of Primary Care
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22nd December 2020

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

PQ ref 43843/20

"To ask the Minister for Health when it is expected to return to fourth class check-ups for school children under the school dentistry programme in Cork City"

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.

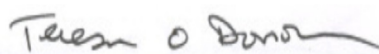
The Primary Care Dental services team provides Dental treatment services to eligible children, medical card holders, special needs clients and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork city and county. Children under 16 years of age are treated in HSE dental clinics and adults are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to the Health Services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

The Dental service provides a school screening programme for children in target classes in primary school. With the current available resource Cork Kerry Community Healthcare prioritises and targets the screening programme for 2nd and 6th class pupils only. However, any child under 16 years, (including 4th class children) are seen as emergencies to treat pain infection or queries from parents and children with certain medical conditions or special care needs are recalled on an annual basis. There are no immediate plans to screen 4th class children without significant additional resources being made available to the service.

You will also be aware that from Mid-March 2020 arising from the COVID 19 pandemic, services including the school screening service were disrupted. The dental services in Cork are currently prioritising 6th class children from the 2019/2020 school cohort for the school screening service.

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