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**22 December 2020**

**Deputy Rose Conway-Walsh  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 44587/20: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists that have withdrawn from the dental treatment services scheme; the number of dentists remaining in the scheme by county; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Conway-Walsh,

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

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE.

As of the 4th December 2020, 174 dentists have withdrawn from the DTSS in 2020. The PCERS/DTSS report for January 2020 listed 1497 private dentists with contracts and same report for December 2020 listed 1354 private dentists with contracts. This figure would also include new entrants, so there was a net difference of 143 dentists.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data requested is not available by county. The number of dentists participating in the DTSS is available by HSE Local Health Office (LHO) region and is detailed in the attached Excel Sheet for December 2020. Please note that contractors who have resigned but are still serving their 3 months' notice period are included in the list as they are required to participate in the scheme for this period.

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**