



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig NaisuintaSlainte Beil,
Fedhmeannacht na Seirbhíse
Sláinte,
31-33 Sráid Caitriona,
Luimneach.

National Oral Health Office,
Health Service Executive,
31-33 Catherine St.,
Limerick.

Colm Burke
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

17th July 2020

PQ 14000/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health if all public orthodontic services will reopen; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Colm Burke

Dear Deputy Burke,

I refer to the above Parliamentary Question which has been referred by the Minister for Health to the Health Service Executive for direct response.

Access to orthodontic services was restricted to emergency treatment under the terms of Statutory Instrument 121/2020 (28th March 2020). This measure has now been revoked under Statutory Instrument 174/2020 (18th May 2020).

Elective orthodontic services are gradually resuming having been phased down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All service locations are implementing social distancing and other organisational measures as well as infection prevention and control guidance that has been updated during the pandemic. Some of these measures mean that the usual throughput of patients is reduced at the start of the resumption, but this is expected to improve over time. In locations where orthodontic services share waiting areas and other facilities, all services are working together to ensure that services are delivered safely and effectively.

As part of their resumption planning, each orthodontic service is rescheduling appointments. Clinicians are reviewing the records of all patients that were under treatment at the time when services were phased down. Priority for early appointments will be given to patients that need to be seen urgently.

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