



27 July 2020

**Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

Re: PQ 15448/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for dentistry and orthodontic services disaggregated by region in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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

The latest KPI Data for the Dental Service (as at Q1 March 2020) and the Orthodontic Service (as at Q4 2019) is detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 below. I would advise the Deputy that data return for Q1 2020 is not complete due to the COVID 19 pandemic. It is important to note the following:

- i. Access to dental 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 This measure has now been revoked under Statutory Instrument 174/2020 (18th May 2020).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 Dental 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 dental 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 dental area will be restarting their screening and treatment service for children. 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.
- ii. Eligibility for dental services is a statutory entitlement under the Health Acts. Almost one million children aged up to and including 15 years are eligible for HSE Dental services. All of the HSE Dental Services are provided free of charge.
- iii. Routine dental services are targeted at certain age groups, and use school class as part of the targeting of services, therefore the academic year can be a factor in reporting progress of targeted programmes. In many instances, information is not held in a format that facilitates the response to the question.
- iv. The HSE Routine Dental Services are provided on the basis of need, with a strong emphasis on prevention. This is delivered through targeted screening and prevention for school children at certain dental developmental milestones and for

- special needs groups. This approach involves identifying children with the greatest needs, and the highest risks of dental disease.
- v. Emergency care for the relief of pain (e.g. toothache) and infection is available on a same day/following day basis for all for all children aged up to 15 years, and patients with Special Needs. Approximately 70,000 children attend for emergency treatment each year, with a 4.5% increase seen this year.
 - vi. Children in the targeted age groups are typically in 1st/2nd Class and 6th Class, with some 4th Class children being seen in some parts of the country as resources permits. Children in secondary school in general receive only an emergency service.
 - vii. Orthodontic treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. A Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used to determine if a child can be accepted for treatment.
 - viii. Access to HSE Orthodontics is through a referral process that starts in the HSE Dental Service, usually when the child is in 6th Class. If a child is identified as having a treatment need that may qualify through the Modified IOTN system, then s/he will be referred for an Orthodontic Assessment with the HSE's Regional Orthodontic Department. If the treatment need meets the criteria under the Modified IOTN, the child will then be placed on a waiting list for treatment. There are a number of categories within the system, and these are used to prioritise care. These waiting lists (orthodontic assessment list, orthodontic treatment list) are managed by the HSE's Regional Orthodontic service.
 - ix. The waiting periods for dental treatment and orthodontic treatment are therefore different and the information for question is presented into the tables accordingly.

Dental Services

Details of numbers of patients attending for scheduled assessment, those attending for unscheduled assessment, those who commenced treatment with three months of scheduled oral health are given in the Appendices Section in Tables 1 - 3.

Orthodontic Services

Details of numbers of patients on assessment waiting lists, those in active treatment, and those on treatment waiting lists are given below.

Assessments

At the end of 2019, 10,202 children were awaiting assessment by the regional orthodontic departments, 1,859 for 0-6 months, 8,343 between 7-12 months. Full details for each regional department are given in Appendix 2.

Numbers in treatment

At the end of 2019, there were 16,994 patients in active treatment for malocclusions in categories 4 and 5. Full details for each regional department are given in Appendix 2.

Numbers waiting for treatment

At the end of 2019, there were 19,216 patients waiting for orthodontic treatment, (10,882 in Category 4, (8,334 in Category 5). Full details for each regional department are given in Appendix 2.

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



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Appendix 1: Dental Service (End of Q1 2020)

Table 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Outturn Previous Year	Target/EA Full Year	Activity YTD	% Tar YTD V Tgt/EA
National Total		151,392	153,516	29,820	-22.3%
CHO 1	Total	19,266	18,672	3,803	-18.5%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,116	4,932	1,386	12.4%
CHO 1	Donegal	8,321	8,148	1,362	-33.1%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	5,829	5,592	1,055	-24.5%
CHO 2	Total	12,145	12,648	1,944	-38.5%
CHO 2	Galway	4,317	4,716	531	-55.0%
CHO 2	Mayo	3,690	3,864	622	-35.6%
CHO 2	Roscommon	4,138	4,068	791	-22.2%
CHO 3	Total	11,632	11,688	2,042	-30.1%
CHO 3	Clare	4,148	3,912	814	-16.8%
CHO 3	Limerick	2,544	2,508	528	-15.8%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East	4,940	5,268	700	-46.8%

	Limerick				
CHO 4	Total	20,641	20,664	3,518	-31.9%
CHO 4	Kerry	3,419	3,456	794	-8.1%
CHO 4	North Cork	4,105	4,428	712	-35.7%
CHO 4	North Lee	5,175	4,884	897	-26.5%
CHO 4	South Lee	6,369	6,420	904	-43.7%
CHO 4	West Cork	1,573	1,476	211	-42.8%
CHO 5	Total	18,638	18,696	4,105	-12.2%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	4,992	5,136	1,096	-14.6%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6,239	5,988	1,582	5.7%
CHO 5	Waterford	3,919	3,816	718	-24.7%
CHO 5	Wexford	3,488	3,756	709	-24.5%
CHO 6	Total	8,143	8,148	2,276	11.7%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0		
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	8,143	8,148	2,276	11.7%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0		
CHO 7	Total	25,180	26,352	5,802	-11.9%

CHO 7	Dublin South City	3,175	3,360	649	-22.7%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	5,242	5,220	1,296	-0.7%
CHO 7	Dublin West	5,420	6,000	824	-45.1%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	11,343	11,772	3,033	3.1%
CHO 8	Total	17,842	18,468	2,611	-43.4%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	3,154	3,480	692	-20.5%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,317	4,128	588	-43.0%
CHO 8	Louth	5,547	5,652	662	-53.1%
CHO 8	Meath	4,824	5,208	669	-48.6%
CHO 9	Total	17,905	18,180	3,719	-18.2%
CHO 9	Dublin North	7,419	8,256	1,319	-36.1%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,676	2,544	939	47.6%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	7,810	7,380	1,461	-20.8%

Table 2: No. of new Oral Health patients attending for unscheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Outturn Previous Year	Target/EA Full Year	Activity YTD	% Tar YTD V Tgt/EA
National Total		63,210	64,692	13,020	-19.5%
CHO 1	Total	7,816	7,884	1,711	-13.2%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2,204	2,160	524	-3.0%
CHO 1	Donegal	3,952	4,272	872	-18.4%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1,660	1,452	315	-13.2%
CHO 2	Total	2,261	2,460	345	-43.9%
CHO 2	Galway	1,082	1,248	92	-70.6%
CHO 2	Mayo	555	564	133	-5.7%
CHO 2	Roscommon	624	648	120	-25.5%
CHO 3	Total	5,231	5,424	1,125	-17.0%
CHO 3	Clare	1,574	1,620	318	-21.3%
CHO 3	Limerick	1,529	1,524	402	5.8%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	2,128	2,280	405	-29.1%
CHO 4	Total	7,816	8,004	1,365	-31.7%
CHO 4	Kerry	1,552	1,632	346	-15.0%

CHO 4	North Cork	1,939	1,968	344	-30.1%
CHO 4	North Lee	1,746	1,728	309	-28.3%
CHO 4	South Lee	1,995	2,064	291	-43.5%
CHO 4	West Cork	584	612	75	-51.3%
CHO 5	Total	7,746	7,788	1,836	-5.7%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	2,069	2,100	568	8.0%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1,690	1,716	362	-15.4%
CHO 5	Waterford	1,670	1,632	435	6.9%
CHO 5	Wexford	2,317	2,340	471	-19.6%
CHO 6	Total	3,391	3,708	738	-20.3%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0		
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	3,391	3,708	738	-20.3%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0		
CHO 7	Total	11,293	11,748	2,521	-14.2%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	1,509	1,632	153	-62.4%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	2,775	2,832	681	-3.9%
CHO 7	Dublin West	3,701	3,816	611	-36.0%

CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	3,308	3,468	1,076	24.0%
CHO 8	Total	8,688	8,604	1,680	-21.9%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	2,600	2,640	510	-22.6%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1,429	1,404	289	-17.9%
CHO 8	Louth	2,403	2,364	567	-4.2%
CHO 8	Meath	2,256	2,196	314	-42.8%
CHO 9	Total	8,968	9,072	1,699	-25.1%
CHO 9	Dublin North	3,769	3,756	665	-29.1%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,455	1,512	336	-11.3%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	3,744	3,804	698	-26.5%

Table 3: No. of new Oral Health Patients who commenced treatment with three months of scheduled oral health assessment

CHO	LHO	Outturn Previous Year	Target/EA Full Year	Activity YTD	% Tar YTD V Tgt/EA
National Total		91.9%	91%	91.8%	0.9%
CHO 1	Total	86.4%	91%	78.4%	-13.8%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	96.6%	91%	99.8%	9.7%
CHO 1	Donegal	78.2%	91%	67.6%	-25.7%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	94.1%	91%	87.7%	-3.7%
CHO 2	Total	87.8%	91%	73.0%	-19.8%
CHO 2	Galway	88.0%	91%	61.0%	-33.0%
CHO 2	Mayo	98.7%	91%	93.4%	2.7%
CHO 2	Roscommon	79.8%	91%	65.7%	-27.8%
CHO 3	Total	94.3%	91%	98.8%	8.6%
CHO 3	Clare	84.2%	91%	95.9%	5.4%
CHO 3	Limerick	97.6%	91%	100.0%	9.9%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	97.9%	91%	100.0%	9.9%
CHO 4	Total	97.0%	91%	97.5%	7.1%
CHO 4	Kerry	100.0%	91%	100.0%	9.9%

CHO 4	North Cork	97.3%	91%	96.3%	5.9%
CHO 4	North Lee	96.4%	91%	97.7%	7.3%
CHO 4	South Lee	96.1%	91%	95.9%	5.4%
CHO 4	West Cork	97.8%	91%	98.1%	7.8%
CHO 5	Total	71.4%	91%	89.8%	-1.4%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	78.7%	91%	88.4%	-2.8%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	87.6%	91%	89.5%	-1.6%
CHO 5	Waterford	56.1%	91%	87.9%	-3.4%
CHO 5	Wexford	67.9%	91%	94.2%	3.5%
CHO 6	Total	98.9%	91%	99.7%	9.5%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		91%		
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	98.9%	91%	99.7%	9.5%
CHO 6	Wicklow		91%		
CHO 7	Total	94.5%	91%	93.9%	3.2%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	99.6%	91%	100.0%	9.9%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	91.3%	91%	90.8%	-0.2%
CHO 7	Dublin West	99.5%	91%	99.7%	9.6%

CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	92.8%	91%	93.1%	2.3%
CHO 8	Total	91.6%	91%	84.6%	-7.0%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	85.9%	91%	99.8%	9.6%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	74.3%	91%	54.2%	-40.4%
CHO 8	Louth	100.0%	91%	99.7%	9.6%
CHO 8	Meath	99.7%	91%	99.1%	8.9%
CHO 9	Total	99.7%	91%	99.9%	9.8%
CHO 9	Dublin North	99.5%	91%	99.9%	9.8%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	100.0%	91%	100.0%	9.9%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	99.8%	91%	99.9%	9.8%



Appendix 2: Orthodontic Service KPI Data Q4 2019

Table 4: Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Category 4

Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Category 4						
1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37-48 months	Over 4 years	Total
1108	1334	2376	2520	1870	1674	10,882

Table 5: Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Category 5

Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Category 5						
1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37-48 months	Over 4 years	Total
1083	1466	2684	1677	986	438	8,334

Table 6: Number of patients placed on treatment waiting list Category 4 per area and wait band

Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Category 4, end 2019							
Area	1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37-48 months	Over 4 years	TOTAL
DML Former East Coast	60	53	107	180	92	0	492
DML Simms	68	45	205	281	308	20	927
Midlands	70	44	167	216	161	855	1513
DNE	83	200	440	437	327	438	1925
South	470	574	694	527	283	0	2548
South East	108	114	227	287	371	268	1375
Mid-Western	61	95	164	188	180	93	781
North West	46	47	77	76	28	0	274
West	142	162	295	328	120	0	1047
TOTAL	1108	1334	2376	2520	1870	1674	10,882

Table 7: Number of patients on the treatment waiting list Grade 5 per area and wait band

Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Grade 5, end 2019							
Area	1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37-48 months	Over 4 years	TOTAL
DML/East Coast	117	70	126	167	36	36	552
DML Simms	104	233	312	251	292	35	1227
Midlands	88	92	163	93	64	55	555
DNE	89	281	589	317	67	65	1408
South	121*	293*	553*	219*	0	0	1186
South East	148	189	438	377	310	186	1648
Mid-West	74	120	229	227	191	61	902
North West	143	73	100	-	-	-	316
West	199	115	174	26	26	-	540
TOTAL	1083	1466	2684	1677	986	438	8334

* Number of Patients on treatment waiting list Grade 5 for the South Regional Orthodontic Department is not available for 2019. Numbers shown represent data as at Q4 2018.

Table 8: Number of patients waiting for assessment per area and wait band

Number of Patients waiting for orthodontic assessment, end 2019		
Area	0 – 6 months waiting time	7 – 12 months waiting time
DML – Former East Coast Loughlinstown	657	892
DML Simms	198	569
Midlands	136	297
DNE	209	1018
South	282	1939
South East	106	1381
Mid-Western	183	174
North West	40	437
West	48	1636
TOTAL	1859	8343

Table 9: Number of patients in active treatment Grade 4 and 5

Number of Patients in Active Treatment Grade 4 and 5, end 2019	
DML, Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	1,164
DML, Former South West (Simms)	2,467
Midlands	772
DNE	3,877
South	2,847
South East	1,158
Mid-Western	1,494
North West	813
Western	2,402
Total	16,994