



30 July 2020

Deputy Richard Bruton
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 16438/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number on the orthodontic waiting lists in Dublin across each category of need; the number of patients treated from each category in the most recent year for which data is available; and the position regarding the scope of speeding up access to care.

Dear Deputy Bruton,

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

Following engagement with the relevant HSE Orthodontic Regional Units, the data for the number of patients in active treatment and the number of patients on a treatment waiting list across each category of need in Dublin are outlined in Table 1 and 2 below. It should be noted that these units treat patients residing in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow.

Table 1: Category 4 Patients

Orthodontic Regional Unit	Number of patients in active treatment	Number of patients on treatment waiting list	TOTALS
HSE Orthodontic Unit St. Columcille's Loughlinstown Dublin 18 (CHO 7)	263	396	659
HSE Orthodontic Unit Ashtown Gate Navan Road Dublin 15 (CHO9)	447	1082	1529
HSE Orthodontic Unit SIMMS Building Tallaght 24	845	1131	1976
TOTALS	1555	2609	4164

Table 2: Category 5 Patients

Orthodontic Regional Unit	Number of patients in active treatment	Number of patients on treatment waiting list	TOTALS
HSE Orthodontic Unit St. Columcille's Loughlinstown Dublin 18 (CHO 7)	832	429	1261
HSE Orthodontic Unit Ashtown Gate Navan Road Dublin 15 (CHO9)	1,111	1165	2276
HSE Orthodontic Unit SIMMS Building, Tallaght 24	1422	1137	2559
TOTALS	3365	2731	6096

Patients and their parents face huge difficulties in accessing orthodontic treatment with the HSE. These difficulties are expressed through the very high numbers waiting for assessment, and in both the numbers waiting for treatment and the length of time waiting for treatment. The predominant causative factor is lack of treatment capacity in the service. 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.

Initiatives underway to address Orthodontic waiting lists include:

- Orthodontic Procurement: This was introduced in 2016 and up to 2019, 1706 patients have been placed for treatment with orthodontic contractors. An additional cohort of patients is being offered transfer to a contractor in 2020.
- Recruitment of additional Consultant Orthodontist and Specialist Orthodontists
 - A comparison of the Dec 2017 and Nov 2018 WTEs for the HSE Orthodontic Service shows an increase of 7.4%.
- Proposed recruitment and deployment of Orthodontic Therapists.
- Prioritisation of care: All orthodontic services prioritise the provision of care for those patients identified as having the greatest needs and the highest risk of developing dental disease.

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