

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare  
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Thomas Gould T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 18269/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the closure of dental clinics (details supplied) which provided free dental checks to children in approximately 16 schools and are a significant loss to North Eastern areas of Cork.”**

**Details Supplied: Closure of dental clinics in Harrington Square, Mayfield and COPE foundation, Montenotte, Cork.**

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 Co. Cork. 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 HSE Primary Care Dental Service provides a school screening dental service which targets pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes.


HSE Dental clinics throughout the Country are transferring from Health Centres to new Primary Care Centres in order to comply with professional standards of care, for example, compliance with National Decontamination Standards for dental services which requires building specifications not attainable in most older Health Centres.

Dental Services in Cork city were consolidated with the opening of St. Mary's Primary Care Centre and Blackrock Primary Care Centre. The Harrington Square Dental Clinic was closed as the premises were no longer fit for purpose. HSE Dental Services were also provided in the Dental Clinic in COPE, however this was not a HSE premises and the decision to close the COPE Dental Clinic was made by COPE Management.

All children who would have availed of free dental checks in Harrington Square or at the COPE Dental Clinic, will now be offered appointments at either St. Marys Primary Care Centre or at St. Finbarr's Hospital Dental Clinic. The catchment area is served by regular urban public transport

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**