



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
HSE Offices, Lacken  
Dublin Road  
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

6<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 19409/20**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults on the orthodontic waiting lists in County Wexford; the average waiting time for appointments; the number waiting more than six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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

*I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.*

Patients referred for orthodontic treatment are assessed by the Specialist Orthodontist. All patients are classified by severity of need in accordance with the Index of Orthodontic Need (IOTN). Patients with greatest clinical need are prioritised for treatment.

There are 299 children in Co. Wexford waiting for an initial orthodontic assessment. The wait time for assessment is approximately 15 months, with 137 waiting 0-6 months and 162 waiting over 6 months.

Based on data that is routinely collated, there are currently 788 patients (children and adults) on the orthodontic treatment waiting list for Wexford; 736 are waiting over 6 months. Given increased demands for services, the average waiting time for the routine orthodontic treatment list is approximately 65 months. The priority waiting list is called in order of age. The HSE orthodontic service monitors these waiting lists on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

Unfortunately it is not possible to predict how the pandemic will impact on the Orthodontic Service waiting times. While the service has resumed some routine clinical work, the service has a considerable backlog of patients who are already in active treatment that need to be seen as a matter of urgency and have priority over patients who have not yet commenced treatment.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

**Jeanne Hendrick**  
**A/Head of Service-Primary Care**  
**South East Community Healthcare**