



12th August 2020

Deputy John Brady,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Community Healthcare East,
Block B, Civic Centre,
Main Street, Bray,
Co. Wicklow, A98 X329
T: 01 2744215 Email: louise.lacey@hse.ie

Re: PQ Ref 19870/20

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of Children & Adults on the Orthodontic waiting lists in Co, Wicklow, the average waiting times for appointment, the number waiting more than six months; and if he will make a statement on it.”

Dear Deputy Brady,

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 and Children for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

I have been advised that service provision in the Orthodontic Unit in Loughlinstown ceased on March 13th 2020 in line with Covid-19 Government advice. Emergency orthodontic services continued to be provided as necessary.

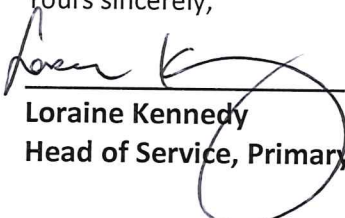
On the 22nd June 2020 in line with the Government’s Return to Work Protocol and HSE guidelines the orthodontic unit resumed service provision. Due to Covid-19 Infection Prevention Controls required for service provision the number of patients that can be seen safely has greatly reduced. At present priority is given to patients that are in active treatment and new patient’s requiring orthodontic assessment will not receive an appointment date until all patients in active treatment have been seen.

The average wait time for an orthodontic assessment appointment is 8 months. Patients are then prioritised for treatment according to the clinical need.

Service	No. of Patients Waiting >6 months
Orthodontic Assessment	317
Orthodontic Treatment	1143

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

Yours sincerely,


Loraine Kennedy
Head of Service, Primary Care