



30 June 2020

**Deputy Stephen Donnelly
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

Re: PQ 10878/20

Question: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons in each LHO area waiting for an oral health appointment in primary care at the end of February 2020 or the latest date available; and the number waiting 0 to 12, 12 to 26, 26 to 52 and more than 52 weeks

Dear Deputy Donnelly,

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 the system does not hold data in the manner requested and the 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 This measure has now been revoked under Statutory Instrument 174/2020 (18th May 2020).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% |

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|-------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| | 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% |

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|-------|----------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| 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% |

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|-------|-------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| 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% |

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|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 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% |

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|-------|-------------------|-------|-----|--------|-------|
| 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% |

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|-------|----------------------|--------|-----|--------|--------|
| 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 |