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Mr. Michael Moynihan, TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 3880/20**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the reason children in the catchment area of Ballincollig, County Cork are not receiving their 2nd class dental check-up from the HSE; if there has been a change to HSE policy in this area; if the policy remains in place, when the 2nd class check-ups will recommence in the area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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). Cork Kerry Primary Care Dental Service provides a school screening dental service which targets pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Within the current available staffing resource, it is not always possible to see children in their second or sixth class academic year, however, these children are offered appointments throughout their school holidays or in the next academic year.


There have been a number of retirements, statutory leave and transfers of staff in Cork Dental Services in recent times. Control measures relating to staffing and recruitment were introduced in 2019 to ensure services are provided within the available resources provided to them. These control measures requires HSE National Director of Community Operations approval for all replacement posts. The administrative process in place regarding same has meant that in some cases in Cork Kerry Community Healthcare (CKCH) the replacement of posts has been delayed and regrettably this has had an impact on the delivery of frontline services, including dental services. CKCH has recently received National Director of Community Operations approval for the filling of 3 Dental Surgeon posts in Cork. The recruitment process for the filling of these vacancies is currently underway through the HSE national recruitment service and Cork dental services will be reviewing same to look at the prioritisation of this resource.

CKCH dental service continues to prioritise special care needs patients and provides emergency care to children under 16 years. For the current academic year, 2019-2020, 6<sup>th</sup> class National School

pupils in the Ballincollig catchment area are being prioritised for school screening, however it is hoped to provide school screening service to 2<sup>nd</sup> class children in most areas during the summer months.

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**