



Eagraíocht Cúram  
Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair &  
Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath

Community Healthcare  
Organisation  
Dublin North City &  
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail  
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae  
Bhaile Átha Cliath,  
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Mr. Paul McAuliffe, TD  
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Head of Service Primary Care,  
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Dublin North City & County,  
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Ballymun, Dublin 9, DO9 C8P5.

11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**PQ 33449/20 – To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons waiting for orthodontic procedures in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Paul McAuliffe**

Dear Deputy McAuliffe,

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. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

There are currently 2,247 persons who have already been assessed and are now waiting for Orthodontic procedures in Orthodontic Services, Community Healthcare Organisation – Dublin North City and County. Patients are placed on the waiting list in order of chronological date of referral and of clinical need. In addition, 399 people are awaiting initial assessment to determine their eligibility for orthodontic treatment.

Due to Public Health guidelines implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic, the HSE Orthodontic service was closed for business from 13th March 2020 and reopened on 17th June 2020. Since reopening in June 2020 we have had to prioritise those patients who are currently in active treatment and need to be seen ahead of any other patient. Unfortunately, the HSE Orthodontic service has always had an extensive waiting list and disruption to service due to Covid-19 has had a negative impact.

Building works are in progress at the Orthodontic Service to convert the current open place space to individual surgeries. This will enhance the safety of patients and staff in line with Covid-19 prevention. This building work will be complete in January 2021. In the interim, the Orthodontic Service is using alternative locations in addition to the existing premises to provide the highest level of service possible.

Active patients are now coming back in line with their treatment plan and some patients are coming to the end of their treatment. In January 2021, the Orthodontic Service will commence the process of starting treatment for the highest priority patients who are waiting and have started to issue appointments to those patients. In March 2021, the service will also begin to see people who are waiting on their initial assessment and hope to carry out a week of assessment clinics in order to try and clear a significant number from the backlog.

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

**Des O'Flynn**  
Head of Service Primary Care