



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig an tUas. Pat Bennett,
Príomhoifigeach, Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail, Lár Tíre, An Lú, An Mhí
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Oifig Cheantair, Bóthar Ardáin, An
Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí.

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Office, Arden Road,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly

☎: **057 9359787/774**

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6th November, 2020

Mr. Ruairí Ó Murchú T.D.,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 34287/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons with special needs on dental and orthodontic service waiting lists in HSE CHO8 region; the maximum waiting period; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Ruairí Ó Murchú

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

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 outline response as follows.

Please note the enquiry does not define the term special needs so therefore it is difficult to provide accurate data to the question.

MIDLANDS DENTAL

General Anaesthetic waiting list for special needs patients					
Longford/Westmeath					
Wait time	0-6 mths	6-12 mths	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	> 3yrs
Children	2	5	7	0	0
Adults	4	1	4	0	0

Laois/Offaly					
Wait time	0-6 mths	6-12 mths	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	> 3yrs
Children	6	9	20	0	0
Adults	5	3	11	0	0

Oral health assessment waiting list for special needs patients					
Longford/Westmeath					
Wait time	0-6 mths	6-12 mths	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	> 3yrs
Children	90	60	0	0	0
Adults	15	20	0	0	0

Laois/Offaly					
Wait time	0-6 mths	6-12 mths	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	> 3yrs
Children	100	78	0	0	0
Adults	32	44	0	0	0

LOUTH/MEATH DENTAL

Louth/Meath Waiting list name	WAITING TIME					Total
	0 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 plus years	
Special Care Waiting List	22	29	491	119	0	661
General anaesthesia Adults	2	1	6		0	8
General anaesthesia paeds^						57
Hygienist special care list	1	37	2			40
TOTAL						766

*List currently being validated

^List due to be validated, so cannot give accurate breakdown by waiting time

The numbers presented are those currently on waiting lists for the Senior Dental Surgeon's in Louth and Meath. However they are an underestimate of the number of special care patients waiting for treatment, as all HSE dentists treat special care patients, but there is currently no way to identify these patients within the national dental electronic patient record system.

LOUTH/MEATH ORTHODONTICS

It is not possible to provide you with figures for special needs patients referred to our list as we do not categorise the patients in that way.

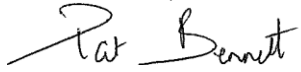
They are categorised by the Modified IOTN as per the 2007 HSE guidelines.

MIDLANDS ORTHODONTICS

The Midlands Orthodontic Service does not collect information on whether or not a person on the waiting list has a special need. Waiting lists for services are prioritised on the basis of their clinical need for Orthodontic services following an Orthodontic assessment.

I trust the above is in order and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Bennett". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Pat Bennett
Chief Officer CHO Area 8