



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Oifig Sarah McBride,
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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8th December, 2020

Ms Sorca Clarke T.D.,
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 34785/20

To ask the Minister for Health if his attention has been drawn to the fact that medical card holders in Athlone, County Westmeath cannot avail of the services of a dentist - Sorca Clarke.

Dear Deputy Clarke,

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.

Prior to the pandemic, ten Dental Surgeons in Athlone held a Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS) contract. Subsequently three contractors tendered their resignations (3 months notice required) and have recently exited or are exiting the scheme.

This issue has been escalated by the Head of Primary Care to the Head of Oral Health in the HSE.

Patients are advised to contact the different dentists in Athlone in the first instance, and failing that in nearby towns to source a DTSS contractor and I apologise for this inconvenience.

We will continue to flag these concerns to our colleagues nationally.

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,

Sarah McBride
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation