



08 December 2020

**Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 38352/20: To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for dental and orthodontic services disaggregated by children and adults; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

I wish to advise that the system does not hold data in the manner requested. Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 detail KPI data for the Dental and Orthodontic Service. Appendix 3 details the number of (a) children and (b) persons with special needs (children and adults) awaiting appointments for treatment under general anaesthesia.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE. The system does not hold waiting lists for these patients.

Almost one million children aged up to and including 15 years are eligible for HSE Dental Services. Access to dental services was restricted to urgent /emergency treatment under the terms of Statutory Instrument 121/2020 (28th March 2020 -18th May 2020). An emergency dental service was maintained in all HSE service areas throughout this time, which included remote consultation through telephone triage as well as clinical attendance for treatment.

During that time, and since, many HSE dental staff have been redeployed to testing and tracing as part of the HSE's response to the pandemic.

Elective Dental Services have been gradually resuming. All service locations are implementing social distancing and other organisational measures as well as infection prevention and control guidance from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre 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. HSE dental staff members have been provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic.

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 plan, each dental area is restarting their screening and treatment service for children. Clinicians have reviewed the records of patients that were under treatment at the time when services were phased down. Priority for early appointments has been given to

patients that need to be seen urgently, and following up where necessary on cases that had emergency treatment during the restricted access period.

The period of restricted access to elective activity has had an adverse effect on waiting lists and times. This is reflected in a 65% reduction in scheduled dental assessments in the first three quarters 2020. If there had been no pandemic, based on the 2019 data, it is estimated that 29,110 children would have been seen for dental examinations during the restricted period (28th March until 18th May). This figure does not include possible additional attendances for treatment after examination.

Full assessment of the impact on waiting lists of the restricted access period, reduced throughput on resumption, and the ongoing commitment to testing on the backlog in service provision is being undertaken. Reducing waiting times is a key priority for the HSE, while at all times ensuring that services implement the organisational and preventive measures required to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

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: KPI Data Q3 2020 Dental Service

Dental Service KPI Data available as at end of September 2020

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	% Var SPLY v YTD
National Total		151,392	153,516	39,294	-65.9%	-65.9%
CHO 1	Total	19,266	18,672	6,326	-54.8%	-55.0%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,116	4,932	2,534	-31.5%	-32.2%
CHO 1	Donegal	8,321	8,148	1,755	-71.3%	-71.2%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	5,829	5,592	2,037	-51.4%	-51.8%
CHO 2	Total	12,145	12,648	2,246	-76.3%	-75.8%
CHO 2	Galway	4,317	4,716	531	-85.0%	-84.3%
CHO 2	Mayo	3,690	3,864	796	-72.5%	-72.1%
CHO 2	Roscommon	4,138	4,068	919	-69.9%	-69.9%
CHO 3	Total	11,632	11,688	2,042	-76.7%	-76.9%
CHO 3	Clare	4,148	3,912	814	-72.3%	-72.6%
CHO 3	Limerick	2,544	2,508	528	-71.9%	-72.4%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	4,940	5,268	700	-82.3%	-82.4%
CHO 4	Total	20,641	20,664	5,723	-63.1%	-63.8%
CHO 4	Kerry	3,419	3,456	910	-64.9%	-65.3%
CHO 4	North Cork	4,105	4,428	1,268	-61.8%	-62.7%
CHO 4	North Lee	5,175	4,884	1,452	-60.4%	-61.6%
CHO 4	South Lee	6,369	6,420	1,726	-64.2%	-64.5%
CHO 4	West Cork	1,573	1,476	367	-66.8%	-67.9%
CHO 5	Total	18,638	18,696	4,924	-64.9%	-65.6%

CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	4,992	5,136	1,387	-64.0%	-65.2%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6,239	5,988	1,791	-60.1%	-61.3%
CHO 5	Waterford	3,919	3,816	1,020	-64.4%	-64.7%
CHO 5	Wexford	3,488	3,756	726	-74.2%	-74.2%
CHO 6	Total	8,143	8,148	2,804	-54.1%	-53.7%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0			
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	8,143	8,148	2,804	-54.1%	-53.7%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0			
CHO 7	Total	25,180	26,352	7,257	-63.3%	-63.4%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	3,175	3,360	1,253	-50.3%	-50.0%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	5,242	5,220	1,542	-60.6%	-60.8%
CHO 7	Dublin West	5,420	6,000	1,262	-72.0%	-71.6%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	11,343	11,772	3,200	-63.8%	-64.3%
CHO 8	Total	17,842	18,468	2,909	-79.0%	-78.8%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	3,154	3,480	692	-73.5%	-73.0%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,317	4,128	588	-81.0%	-81.6%
CHO 8	Louth	5,547	5,652	711	-83.2%	-82.6%
CHO 8	Meath	4,824	5,208	918	-76.5%	-76.2%
CHO 9	Total	17,905	18,180	5,063	-62.9%	-62.3%
CHO 9	Dublin North	7,419	8,256	1,688	-72.7%	-71.4%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,676	2,544	1,315	-31.1%	-34.2%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	7,810	7,380	2,060	-62.8%	-62.7%
No. of new Oral Health patients attending for unscheduled assessment						
National Total		63,210	64,692	38,597	-20.4%	-20.3%
CHO 1	Total	7,816	7,884	6,309	6.7%	6.6%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2,204	2,160	1,427	-11.9%	-13.8%
CHO 1	Donegal	3,952	4,272	3,081	-3.8%	-1.1%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1,660	1,452	1,801	65.4%	57.2%
CHO 2	Total	2,261	2,460	1,178	-36.1%	-34.5%
CHO 2	Galway	1,082	1,248	92	-90.2%	-89.8%
CHO 2	Mayo	555	564	614	45.2%	49.0%
CHO 2	Roscommon	624	648	472	-2.1%	-2.5%
CHO 3	Total	5,231	5,424	1,125	-72.3%	-72.2%
CHO 3	Clare	1,574	1,620	318	-73.8%	-73.1%

CHO 3	Limerick	1,529	1,524	402	-64.8%	-65.6%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	2,128	2,280	405	-76.3%	-76.0%
CHO 4	Total	7,816	8,004	3,156	-47.3%	-47.3%
CHO 4	Kerry	1,552	1,632	664	-45.6%	-45.1%
CHO 4	North Cork	1,939	1,968	852	-42.3%	-42.9%
CHO 4	North Lee	1,746	1,728	716	-44.6%	-45.4%
CHO 4	South Lee	1,995	2,064	777	-49.7%	-49.0%
CHO 4	West Cork	584	612	147	-68.1%	-67.7%
CHO 5	Total	7,746	7,788	5,103	-12.6%	-12.9%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	2,069	2,100	1,478	-6.3%	-4.3%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1,690	1,716	1,095	-14.7%	-15.8%
CHO 5	Waterford	1,670	1,632	1,334	9.2%	8.0%
CHO 5	Wexford	2,317	2,340	1,196	-31.9%	-32.7%
CHO 6	Total	3,391	3,708	2,842	2.3%	5.1%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0			
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	3,391	3,708	2,842	2.3%	5.1%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0			
CHO 7	Total	11,293	11,748	8,363	-5.2%	-4.7%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	1,509	1,632	844	-30.9%	-30.2%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	2,775	2,832	2,353	10.6%	10.1%
CHO 7	Dublin West	3,701	3,816	1,978	-30.9%	-30.1%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	3,308	3,468	3,188	22.4%	22.8%
CHO 8	Total	8,688	8,604	5,069	-21.5%	-22.3%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	2,600	2,640	1,625	-17.8%	-19.2%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1,429	1,404	1,188	12.6%	10.3%
CHO 8	Louth	2,403	2,364	1,287	-27.5%	-28.8%
CHO 8	Meath	2,256	2,196	969	-41.1%	-40.5%
CHO 9	Total	8,968	9,072	5,452	-19.9%	-19.9%
CHO 9	Dublin North	3,769	3,756	2,245	-20.2%	-20.4%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,455	1,512	1,329	16.8%	15.3%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	3,744	3,804	1,878	-34.1%	-33.7%

No of new Oral Health patients who commenced treatment within three months of scheduled oral health assessment

National Total		107,916	109,752	26,293	-68.1%	-68.1%
CHO 1	Total	12,341	11,580	3,554	-59.1%	-60.6%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	3,639	3,444	951	-63.2%	-64.5%
CHO 1	Donegal	5,866	5,652	1,546	-63.5%	-65.1%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	2,836	2,484	1,057	-43.3%	-44.6%
CHO 2	Total	6,108	6,408	952	-80.2%	-79.9%
CHO 2	Galway	2,599	2,916	164	-92.5%	-92.2%
CHO 2	Mayo	1,655	1,656	377	-69.6%	-69.4%
CHO 2	Roscommon	1,854	1,836	411	-70.2%	-70.4%
CHO 3	Total	11,522	12,024	2,203	-75.6%	-75.8%
CHO 3	Clare	2,658	2,568	614	-68.1%	-68.3%
CHO 3	Limerick	3,924	4,056	919	-69.8%	-69.9%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	4,940	5,400	670	-83.5%	-83.7%
CHO 4	Total	18,968	19,056	4,259	-70.2%	-70.7%
CHO 4	Kerry	2,325	2,388	909	-49.2%	-49.0%
CHO 4	North Cork	3,996	4,332	839	-74.2%	-74.7%
CHO 4	North Lee	4,987	4,704	1,040	-70.5%	-71.5%
CHO 4	South Lee	6,122	6,180	1,166	-74.8%	-75.1%
CHO 4	West Cork	1,538	1,452	305	-72.0%	-72.8%
CHO 5	Total	7,524	7,140	2,125	-60.3%	-60.5%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	2,672	2,556	562	-70.7%	-70.6%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1,682	1,752	490	-62.7%	-62.5%
CHO 5	Waterford	1,777	1,608	651	-46.0%	-44.6%
CHO 5	Wexford	1,393	1,224	422	-54.0%	-57.0%
CHO 6	Total	5,170	5,448	1,483	-63.7%	-63.0%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0			
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	5,170	5,448	1,483	-63.7%	-63.0%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0			
CHO 7	Total	18,618	18,576	5,989	-57.0%	-57.3%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	2,531	2,520	1,333	-29.5%	-29.4%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	5,471	4,920	1,864	-49.5%	-51.5%

CHO 7	Dublin West	3,639	3,984	1,044	-65.1%	-64.5%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	6,977	7,152	1,748	-67.4%	-67.3%
CHO 8	Total	13,035	14,304	1,876	-82.5%	-81.9%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	1,820	1,764	421	-68.2%	-68.8%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	2,559	2,832	346	-83.7%	-84.1%
CHO 8	Louth	3,101	2,976	766	-65.7%	-63.8%
CHO 8	Meath	5,555	6,732	343	-93.2%	-92.7%
CHO 9	Total	14,630	15,216	3,852	-66.2%	-65.8%
CHO 9	Dublin North	6,006	6,504	1,448	-70.3%	-69.2%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,792	2,808	963	-54.3%	-55.6%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	5,832	5,904	1,441	-67.5%	-67.2%

Appendix 2: KPI Data Orthodontic Service Q3 2020

	In Active Treatment	Waiting < 2 years	Waiting 2-4 years	Waiting > 4 years	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*		481	447	152	1080
Former South West (St James's)*	2,261	935	1073	327	2335
Midlands**	604	**	**	**	**
DNE	1,558	1,032	722	493	2247
South	2,255	1,360	792	89	2241
South East	1,063	853	1335	811	2999
Mid Western	1,463	555	840	328	1723
North West	742	473	212		685
Western	2,093	1,048	716	239	2003
Totals	12,039	6737	6137	2439	15313

*Data for Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*Former South West (St James's)* and Midlands* as at Q2 2020

** KPI Treatment Waiting Time Figures for Midlands Orthodontic Unit have not been recorded on the KPI Data Portal

Appendix 3: No. of persons waiting for dental extractions under general anaesthesia

(a): No. of children waiting for dental extractions under general anaesthesia

CHO Area	0 – 12 weeks	12 - 26 weeks	26 – 52 weeks	52 weeks +	TOTALS
CHO 1	27	26	63		116
CHO 2					289
<i>Mayo/Roscommon</i>		<i>42 (max. 4 months)</i>			
<i>Galway</i>					<i>247</i>
CHO 3					110
CHO 4					565
					115 Kerry 450 Cork
CHO 5	40	67	136	60	303
CHO 6	17	22	30	21	90
CHO 7		65	85		150
CHO 8					387
<i>Louth/Meath</i>					<i>157</i>
<i>Longford/Westmeath</i>					<i>92</i> <i>(max. waiting time 1 year)</i>
<i>Laois/Offaly</i>					<i>138 (max. waiting time 2 years)</i>

CHO 9					80
<i>DNCC</i>		25			
<i>Dublin North</i>		55			

(b) No. of persons with special needs (children and adults) awaiting appointments for treatment under general anaesthesia (Sept 2020)

CHO Area	0 – 12 weeks	12 - 26 weeks	26 – 52 weeks	52 weeks +	TOTALS
CHO 1		8	22		30
CHO 2					119
<i>Mayo/Roscommon</i>		<i>45 (max. waiting time 4 months)</i>			
<i>Galway</i>					<i>74 (max waiting time 20. Months)</i>
CHO 3					21
CHO 4					230
<i>Kerry</i>					35
<i>Cork</i>					<i>Adult– 65 Children - 130</i>
CHO 5	6	58	33	104	201
CHO 6	1		3	1	5
CHO 7			15		15

CHO 8					38 (adults only)
<i>Louth/Meath</i>					<i>12 adults</i>
<i>Longford/Westmeath</i>					<i>8 adults (max. waiting time is 1 year)</i>
<i>Laois/Offaly</i>					<i>18 adults (max. waiting time is 2 years)</i>
CHO 9					127
DNCC				47	
Dublin North			80 ADULTS (Max. waiting time 6 months)		