



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.
t: 057 9359787/774
e: CHO8@hse.ie

Office of Ms. Sarah McBride,
Chief Officer, Midlands Louth
Meath Community Health
Organisation, Health Service
Executive, Area Office, Arden
Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
t: 057 9359787/774
e: CHO8@hse.ie

7th December, 2020

Ms. Carol Nolan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 37455/20

To ask the Minister for Health if he will address concerns that medical card holders in Birr, County Offaly are unable to access to dental treatment in the area; the interventions that can be put in place to address this service deficit; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Carol Nolan

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

In early 2020 two Dental Practices in the town of Birr offered dental treatment to medical card patients, as part of the Dental Treatment Service Scheme.

Unfortunately, in late January one of these Dental Practices closed and the second practice did not have the capacity to meet the increased demand. Hence access since late January has been reduced.

The advice is that patients who have a difficulty accessing a Dental Surgeon in Birr will need to travel to a nearby town to source a Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS) contractor and I apologise for this inconvenience.

These access concerns have been raised through the Primary Care Division and with the Head of Oral Health for the HSE.

In the meantime, the HSE is ready to process any applications from dentists to be part of the DTSS Scheme.

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