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**07 December 2020**

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

**PQ 38353/20: To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card holders who received appointments through the dental treatment services scheme in 2019 and to date in 2020; 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.

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 number of medical card holders who received appointments through the dental treatment services scheme in 2019 was 374,119.

To date in 2020, 262,136 (November PCERS figures) medical card holders have received appointments through the dental treatment services scheme. The equivalent figure for November 2019 was 351,626

The difference is mainly due to restricted access to dental services for urgent or emergency treatment as a result of Statutory Instrument 121/2020 (28th March 2020 - 18th May 2020), but there has been a recovery in recent months within the scheme, which is currently running at approximately 80% compared to last year.

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**