

***General Manager's Office  
Letterkenny University Hospital, Letterkenny,  
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8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Deputy Doherty,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

***PQ 39394/20***

**To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for dental treatment in the dental department, Letterkenny University Hospital, County Donegal; the number of patients waiting for routine and emergency treatment in each of the years 2018, 2019 and to date in 2020, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter. - Pearse Doherty**

Dear Deputy,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question/Public Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE dental services targets school children in 6th, 1st and 4th classes and also children with special needs and adults with special needs who cannot access dental treatment via the DTSS. The below table is representative of the number of children in the three target classes and special needs in each of the three academic years, 2018/2019, 2019/2020 & 2020/2021.

All school children from the three target classes and special needs patients were assessed and received treatments in 2018/2019.

All dental emergencies were seen and treated within 24 hours of contacting the dental service.

The number of children waiting for treatment in Donegal from 2019/2020 is approximately 500. The average waiting time is currently 6 months. All of these children were booked for dental treatment but cancelled due to Covid 19. With the resumption of dental treatment these children will have their treatments completed within 6 months.

All dental emergencies were seen and treated within 24 hours of contacting the dental services in 2019/2020.

The dental services have resumed service delivery and are currently providing assessments and treatments to the three primary school target classes (6th, 1st & 4th) for 2020/2021 and the special needs population.

All dental emergencies are seen and treated within 24 hours of contacting the service.

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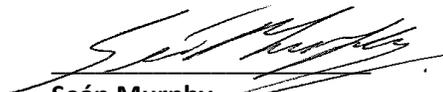
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	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	2213	2315	2332
4 <sup>th</sup> Class	2317	2377	2387
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	2365	2430	2289
Special needs	257	495	596
Totals	7206	7617	7604
Numbers waiting for emergency care	0	0	0
Numbers waiting for routine care	0 (all completed)	500 (6 months wait)	Work in progress

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



**Seán Murphy**  
**General Manager**  
**Letterkenny General Hospital**