



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

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20th October 2020

Mr. Seán Canney TD,
St. David's,
The Mall,
Tuam,
County Galway.

PQ 31541/20

To ask the Minister for Health the number of patients on the orthodontic assessment waiting list in County Galway; the current wait time for assessment; the number of patients on the orthodontic treatment waiting list; the current wait time for orthodontic treatment; if there are unfilled clinical positions; the plans in place to reduce the treatment waiting time; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Canney,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The current number of patients on the orthodontic assessment waiting list in County Galway is 763. The current wait time for assessment is approximately 6 months but this can vary. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, we are only seeing urgent cases.

The number of patients on the orthodontic treatment waiting list is 1784. The delays due to Covid-19 have meant that patients are not being taken off the waitlist as we try to deal with clearing active patients.

There is currently one unfilled position for a specialist orthodontist which is currently advertised and one on maternity leave.

The Government planning waiting list initiative is to be put in place to reduce the treatment waiting time.

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

Yours sincerely

Mr. Frank Murphy
Head of Primary Care
Community Healthcare West