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**04 May 2021**

**Deputy Johnny Mythen.  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**19031/21: To ask the Minister for Health if the HSE collect and monitor any data relating to adult waiting lists for dental treatment provided under the dental treatment service scheme; the way in which potential access and capacity issues for those with medical cards are monitored with regard to same; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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

I wish to advise the Deputy that the HSE does not collect and monitor any data relating to adult waiting lists for dental treatment provided under the Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS). The scheme is based on choice of dentist approach where the medical card holder can access treatment provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE.

The HSE collects and monitors data on the claims submitted by dentists for reimbursement of fees for treatment provided under the DTSS on a monthly basis. The data shows a reduction in claims for treatment provided in the last year mainly due to Covid-19 restrictions and a number of DTSS contractor resignations.

The HSE is aware that some medical card holders have experienced difficulties in accessing dental treatment under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme.


Where this is made known to the HSE, each enquiry and representation is followed up by local community services who seek to assist medical card holders.

In the course of 2020, services were curtailed for a period due to Covid-19 restrictions. Revised infection prevention and control measures have reduced throughput in dental practices. A number of dental contractors have resigned from the scheme, which has also affected access for patients.

As well as assisting medical card holders, the HSE is working closely with the Department of Health in relation to the operation of the scheme, and addressing difficulties faced by some patients accessing services.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



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**Joseph Green**  
**AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**