



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

22nd April 2021

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 19034/21

To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting list for children awaiting orthodontal treatment in County Wexford; the breakdown of the length of waiting time in tabular form; 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 was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

Patients referred for orthodontic treatment are assessed by the Specialist Orthodontist. All patients are classified by severity of need in accordance with the Index of Orthodontic Need (IOTN). Patients with greatest clinical need are prioritised for treatment.

No. of children awaiting orthodontal treatment in Co. Wexford	IOTN 4 cases	IOTN 5 cases
0-2 years	63	102
2-4 years	204	309
4-6+ years	93	20
Total	360	431

Waiting lists for orthodontic treatment have been impacted due to the measures put in place as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Consultant Orthodontist is required to comply with national guidance and hospital regulations and only when restrictions ease will new patients begin to be called from the orthodontic waiting list.

There will be an orthodontic waiting list initiative this year - this will include those who are waiting over 4 years and only those patients who fall into the IOTN category 4. However it is hoped that this may impact on all waiting lists.

Please be assured that the HSE orthodontic service monitors the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Hendrick', written in a cursive style.

Jeanne Hendrick
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare