



10 May 2021

Deputy Paul Kehoe.
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

22324/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in County Wexford participating in the dental medical card scheme; his plans to address the number of dentists leaving the scheme which has left medical card patients in many areas with no access to dental treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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 there are currently 32 private dentists participating in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) in County Wexford. The number of contractors include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme. Further detail is outlined in Table 1 below.

Local Health Office Area	No of DTSS Private Dentists	Resignations since week ending 06/03/2020	New Applications being processed currently
LHO 32 - Wexford	32	19	3

Table 1: Private Dentists participating in the DTSS in LHO 32 – Wexford

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Green', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations