



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

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

Telephone +353 56 7784100

10<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 22527/21**

**To ask the Minister for Health the current wait list for persons under 18 years of age awaiting orthodontal treatment in County Wexford; the breakdown of the number of persons waiting 24, 36 and 48 months and longer, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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.

<b>No. of persons under 18 years of age awaiting orthodontal treatment in Co. Wexford</b>	<b>IOTN 4 cases</b>	<b>IOTN 5 cases</b>
<b>0-24 months</b>	63	102
<b>24 months-48 months</b>	204	309
<b>48 months +</b>	93	20
<b>Total</b>	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 Orthodontic Department have begun to see some new patients recently but at a much slower pace due to Covid-19 restrictions and at a significantly reduced capacity

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.

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