

Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil, 31-33 Sráid Caitriona, Luimneach

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Deputy Bernard Durkan Dáil Eireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2

PQ 56233/21: To ask the Minister for Health the total number of children currently awaiting orthodontic treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Durkan,

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

The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Units. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

There is a high demand for Orthodontic services nationally. The demand for services exceeds the current capacity to provide the service, and therefore waiting lists apply across all Community Healthcare Organisations and in the SAOLTA Hospital Group area for this service.

A waiting list initiative (Framework Type Agreement 3983) to deal with long waiting times for access to orthodontic treatment commenced in 2016. Under Framework type agreement 3983, between 2016-2020, 1996 patients whose malocclusions are assessed as being Grade 4 of the modified IOTN were placed in treatment with private service providers. In 2021, under the successor Framework Type Agreement 11317, 756 patients whose malocclusions are assessed as being Grade 4 of the modified IOTN have accepted transfer to private service providers.

The number of patients on HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment as at Q3 2021 is detailed in Appendix 1 below. As a result of staff redeployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the reporting of treatment waiting times for 2021 in some regions is incomplete.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Joseph Green

AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations

Appendix 1: HSE Orthodontic Service KPI Data Q3 2021

*North West Regional Orthodontic Unit KPI data not available

NO. OF PATIENTS WAITING TO COMMENCE TREATMENT - CATEGORY GRADE 4

		1-6	7-12	13-	25-	37-48	over 4	
	Area	mths	mths	24mths	36mths	mths	years	TOTAL
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	12	2	98	100	104	45	361
DML	Former South West (St James's)	40	22	53	271	136	129	651
DML	Midlands	74	2	142	113	165	427	923
DNE	DNE	1	0	38	115	124	383	661
SOUTH	South	99	86	418	615	289	131	1,638
SOUTH	South East	88	30	86	169	165	391	929
WEST	Mid Western	62	0	93	112	114	128	509
WEST*	Western	50	3	230	310	223	2	818
	TOTAL	426	145	1,158	1,805	1,320	1,636	6,490

NO. OF PATIENTS WAITING TO COMMENCE TREATMENT - CATEGORY GRADE 5

		1-6	7-12	13-	25-	37-48	over 4	
	Area	mths	mths	24mths	36mths	mths	years	TOTAL
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	60	6	156	139	129	56	546
DML	Former South West (St James's)	86	47	114	254	126	113	740
DML	Midlands	115	2	130	64	37	31	379
DNE	DNE	5	5	79	220	222	138	669
SOUTH	South	89	73	352	555	274	43	1,386
SOUTH	South East	154	74	181	366	362	658	1,795
WEST	Mid Western	110	3	105	155	124	92	589
WEST*	Western	106	46	230	183	78	5	648
	TOTAL	725	256	1,347	1,936	1,352	1,136	6,752
	TOTAL NUMBER OF PATIENTS							13,242