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**Deputy Pauline Tully
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 8570/21 To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults on the dental appointment waiting list in each county; the average waiting times for appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Tully,

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.

I wish to advise that the system does not hold data in the manner requested. Appendix 1 details KPI data for the HSE Dental Service (end of December 2020).

Access to dental services was restricted to urgent /emergency treatment under the terms of Statutory Instrument 121/2020 (28th March 2020 -18th May 2020). An emergency dental service was maintained in all HSE service areas throughout this time, which included remote consultation through telephone triage as well as clinical attendance for treatment.

During that time, and since, many HSE dental staff have been redeployed to testing and tracing as part of the HSE's response to the pandemic.

Elective Dental Services have been gradually resuming. All service locations are implementing social distancing and other organisational measures as well as infection prevention and control guidance from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre that has been updated during the pandemic. Some of these measures mean that the usual throughput of patients is reduced at the start of the resumption, but this is expected to improve over time. HSE dental staff members have been provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic.

In locations where dental services share waiting areas and other facilities, all services are working together to ensure that services are delivered safely and effectively. As part of their resumption plan, each dental area has restarted their screening and treatment service for children. Clinicians have reviewed the records of patients that were under treatment at the time when services were phased down. Priority for early appointments has been given to patients that need to be seen urgently, and following up where necessary on cases that had emergency treatment during the restricted access period.

The period of restricted access to elective activity has had an adverse effect on waiting lists and times. This is reflected in a 63.5% reduction in scheduled dental assessments in the 2020 when compared to 2019.

If there had been no pandemic, based on the 2019 data, it is estimated that 29,110 children would have been seen for dental examinations during the restricted period (28th March until 18th May). This figure does not include possible additional attendances for treatment after examination.

Full assessment of the impact on waiting lists of the restricted access period, reduced throughput on resumption, and the on-going commitment to testing on the backlog in service provision is being undertaken. Reducing waiting times is a key priority for the HSE, while at all times ensuring that services implement the organisational and preventive measures required to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

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



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Appendix 1: HSE Dental Service KPI Data

Table 1: KPI Data as at end December 2020

a) No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Outturn Previous Year 2019	Target/EA Full Year	Activity YTD	% 2020 V 2019
National Total		151,392	153,516	55,324	-63.5%
CHO 1	Total	19,266	18,672	9,129	-52.6%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,116	4,932	3,571	-30.2%
CHO 1	Donegal	8,321	8,148	2,659	-68.0%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	5,829	5,592	2,899	-50.3%
CHO 2	Total	12,145	12,648	2,904	-76.1%
CHO 2	Galway	4,317	4,716	531	-87.7%
CHO 2	Mayo	3,690	3,864	1,264	-65.7%
CHO 2	Roscommon	4,138	4,068	1,109	-73.2%
CHO 3	Total	11,632	11,688	3,385	-70.9%
CHO 3	Clare	4,148	3,912	1,481	-64.3%
CHO 3	Limerick	2,544	2,508	963	-62.1%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	4,940	5,268	941	-81.0%

CHO 4	Total	20,641	20,664	8,086	-60.8%
CHO 4	Kerry	3,419	3,456	1,277	-62.6%
CHO 4	North Cork	4,105	4,428	1,710	-58.3%
CHO 4	North Lee	5,175	4,884	2,027	-60.8%
CHO 4	South Lee	6,369	6,420	2,415	-62.1%
CHO 4	West Cork	1,573	1,476	657	-58.2%
CHO 5	Total	18,638	18,696	6,621	-64.5%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	4,992	5,136	1,690	-66.1%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6,239	5,988	2,485	-60.2%
CHO 5	Waterford	3,919	3,816	1,608	-59.0%
CHO 5	Wexford	3,488	3,756	838	-76.0%
CHO 6	Total	8,143	8,148	4,054	-50.2%
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/ Wicklow	8,143	8,148	4,054	-50.2%
CHO 7	Total	25,180	26,352	9,534	-62.1%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	3,175	3,360	1,627	-48.8%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	5,242	5,220	2,136	-59.3%
CHO 7	Dublin West	5,420	6,000	2,014	-62.8%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	11,343	11,772	3,757	-66.9%
CHO 8	Total	17,842	18,468	3,829	-78.5%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	3,154	3,480	720	-77.2%

CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,317	4,128	875	-79.7%
CHO 8	Louth	5,547	5,652	1,100	-80.2%
CHO 8	Meath	4,824	5,208	1,134	-76.5%
CHO 9	Total	17,905	18,180	7,782	-56.5%
CHO 9	Dublin North	7,419	8,256	2,456	-66.9%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,676	2,544	2,003	-25.1%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	7,810	7,380	3,323	-57.5%

b) No. of new Oral Health patients attending for unscheduled assessment

CHO	LHO	Outturn Previous Year	Target/EA Full Year	Activity YTD	% Tar YTD V Tgt/EA
National Total		63,210	64,692	55,253	-14.6%
CHO 1	Total	7,816	7,884	8,918	13.1%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2,204	2,160	1,913	-11.4%
CHO 1	Donegal	3,952	4,272	4,121	-3.5%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1,660	1,452	2,884	98.6%
CHO 2	Total	2,261	2,460	1,500	-38.9%
CHO 2	Galway	1,082	1,248	92	-92.6%
CHO 2	Mayo	555	564	756	34.0%
CHO 2	Roscommon	624	648	652	1.6%
CHO 3	Total	5,231	5,424	3,269	-39.7%
CHO 3	Clare	1,574	1,620	860	-46.8%
CHO 3	Limerick	1,529	1,524	1,076	-29.3%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	2,128	2,280	1,333	-41.6%
CHO 4	Total	7,816	8,004	4,676	-41.5%
CHO 4	Kerry	1,552	1,632	997	-38.8%
CHO 4	North Cork	1,939	1,968	1,243	-36.8%
CHO 4	North Lee	1,746	1,728	1,043	-39.4%
CHO 4	South Lee	1,995	2,064	1,163	-43.5%

CHO 4	West Cork	584	612	230	-62.5%
CHO 5	Total	7,746	7,788	6,801	-12.6%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	2,069	2,100	1,771	-15.7%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1,690	1,716	1,573	-8.0%
CHO 5	Waterford	1,670	1,632	1,863	14.4%
CHO 5	Wexford	2,317	2,340	1,594	-32.0%
CHO 6	Total	3,391	3,708	4,004	8.1%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0		
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	3,391	3,708	4,004	8.1%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0		
CHO 7	Total	11,293	11,748	11,079	-5.8%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	1,509	1,632	1,116	-31.4%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	2,775	2,832	3,185	12.3%
CHO 7	Dublin West	3,701	3,816	2,692	-29.5%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	3,308	3,468	4,086	17.7%
CHO 8	Total	8,688	8,604	7,196	-16.4%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	2,600	2,640	2,274	-13.8%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1,429	1,404	1,501	6.8%
CHO 8	Louth	2,403	2,364	1,896	-19.9%
CHO 8	Meath	2,256	2,196	1,525	-30.5%

CHO 9	Total	8,968	9,072	7,810	-13.9%
CHO 9	Dublin North	3,769	3,756	2,967	-20.9%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,455	1,512	1,775	17.0%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	3,744	3,804	3,068	-19.3%

c) No. of new Oral Health Patients who commenced treatment with three months of scheduled oral health assessment

CHO	LHO	Outturn Previous Year	Target/EA Full Year	Activity YTD	% Tar YTD V Tgt/EA
National Total		107,916	109,752	37,981	-65.4%
CHO 1	Total	12,341	11,580	5,524	-52.3%
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	3,639	3,444	1,296	-62.4%
CHO 1	Donegal	5,866	5,652	2,457	-56.5%
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	2,836	2,484	1,771	-28.7%
CHO 2	Total	6,108	6,408	1,322	-79.4%
CHO 2	Galway	2,599	2,916	164	-94.4%
CHO 2	Mayo	1,655	1,656	621	-62.5%
CHO 2	Roscommon	1,854	1,836	537	-70.8%
CHO 3	Total	11,522	12,024	5,014	-58.3%
CHO 3	Clare	2,658	2,568	1,408	-45.2%
CHO 3	Limerick	3,924	4,056	2,251	-44.5%
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	4,940	5,400	1,355	-74.9%

CHO 4	Total	18,968	19,056	6,582	-65.5%
CHO 4	Kerry	2,325	2,388	1,276	-46.6%
CHO 4	North Cork	3,996	4,332	1,236	-71.5%
CHO 4	North Lee	4,987	4,704	1,668	-64.5%
CHO 4	South Lee	6,122	6,180	1,828	-70.4%
CHO 4	West Cork	1,538	1,452	574	-60.5%
CHO 5	Total	7,524	7,140	2,606	-63.5%
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	2,672	2,556	622	-75.7%
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1,682	1,752	640	-63.5%
CHO 5	Waterford	1,777	1,608	916	-43.0%
CHO 5	Wexford	1,393	1,224	428	-65.0%
CHO 6	Total	5,170	5,448	1,983	-63.6%
CHO 6	Dublin South East		0		
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire	5,170	5,448	1,983	-63.6%
CHO 6	Wicklow		0		
CHO 7	Total	18,618	18,576	6,997	-62.3%
CHO 7	Dublin South City	2,531	2,520	1,619	-35.8%
CHO 7	Dublin South West	5,471	4,920	2,141	-56.5%
CHO 7	Dublin West	3,639	3,984	1,308	-67.2%
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	6,977	7,152	1,929	-73.0%

CHO 8	Total	13,035	14,304	2,486	-82.6%
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	1,820	1,764	508	-71.2%
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	2,559	2,832	430	-84.8%
CHO 8	Louth	3,101	2,976	1,073	-63.9%
CHO 8	Meath	5,555	6,732	475	-92.9%
CHO 9	Total	14,630	15,216	5,467	-64.1%
CHO 9	Dublin North	6,006	6,504	1,860	-71.4%
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,792	2,808	1,474	-47.5%
CHO 9	Dublin North West	5,832	5,904	2,133	-63.9%