



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
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26th March 2021

Mr. Johnny Mythen TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 14444/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults on the dental appointment waiting list in County Wexford; the average waiting time for appointments; 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.

At present, there are 17,650 children awaiting dental appointments with the HSE Dental Service in Wexford. It should be noted that these numbers are largely children awaiting the school dental examinations. COVID-19 has further impacted on these waiting lists. The average waiting time is not available, but the longest waiting time is approximately 30 months. Emergency services continue to be provided to children at HSE Clinics and were provided right through COVID-19.

Dental treatment for adults is generally not provided within the HSE Dental Service, other than for adults with special needs. The only waiting lists for adults held by the Dental Service are the waiting lists for treatment of adults with special needs under General Anaesthesia. At present, there are 78 adults on this waiting list in the Waterford/Wexford area. The average waiting time is not available but the longest waiting time is 36 months.

Adults who hold a medical card are treated by General Dental Practitioners under the DTSS. Adult medical card patients who require specialist dental services are generally referred to Cork Dental Hospital. The waiting lists for these specialist services are held and managed in Cork Dental Hospital.

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

Yours sincerely,

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