

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Office of Head of Primary Care
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April 15th 2021

Deputy Colm Burke T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 16431/21

"To ask the Minister for Health the reason there is a different approach in the Cork region compared to the Kerry region in respect of orthodontic treatment (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Details Supplied: in particular none of the work is allocated to private practitioners in Cork while the HSE appear to have a process in Kerry to allocate work to private practitioners, thus reducing the waiting time in Kerry while there is a five year delay in Cork

Dear Deputy Burke,

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

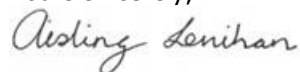
Patients who are currently being offered private orthodontic treatment in Kerry through the HSE, are part of a previous Waiting List Initiative which commenced throughout Cork and Kerry in 2017. There are a small number of patients in Kerry who continue to receive treatment under this initiative, however, all of the Cork patients have now completed their treatment.

Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are currently working with the National Oral Health office around a new wait list initiative for a particular priority group waiting over 4 years for orthodontic treatment in Cork and Kerry and it is envisaged that this initiative will commence by Q3 2021.

While the demand for orthodontic services continues to grow, it is hoped that the measures outlined in my previous response to you, i.e. the introduction of a centralised wait list and the recruitment of a Consultant Orthodontist for Kerry would improve equity of access to orthodontic services across Cork and Kerry and help to reduce the overall waiting times for patients requiring orthodontic treatment in both Cork and Kerry.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Aisling Lenihan
A/ Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare