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25th June 2021

Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 24756/21

“To ask the Minister for Health if additional funding will be provided to help address service delays in the Covid-19 pandemic in public dental services in County Kerry.”

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

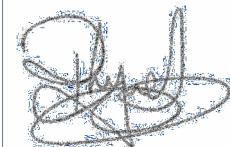
During COVID, as per our pandemic plan, the HSE Dental Service had to curtail service provision to emergency services only and oral health staff were largely redeployed into COVID testing, contact tracing and the vaccination programme. This led to significant delays in the service and a waiting list.

A number of measures will be taken by the public dental service in County Kerry in order to try and reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on waiting times. The service will follow the guidance of the National Oral Health Office and adopt a risk-based approach regarding the order in which school classes are called for the school screening programme. In addition, the service has recently submitted a request for funding regarding a waiting list initiative which would involve recruiting additional staff to work at Tralee PCC on Saturdays, for a fixed period of time, so as to help alleviate waiting times. We are awaiting approval of this funding request.

The service will continue to maximise efficiency within its available resources to deal with the waiting list and continue to provide dental services to the people of Kerry.

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

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare