



29 June 2021

Deputy Duncan Smith
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street

Dublin 2

24857/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists that have withdrawn from the dental treatment service scheme since January 2020 in CHO9; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Smith,

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

I wish to advise the Deputy that the number private dentists participating in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) in CHO 9 is outlined in Table 1 below. Please note data on resignations is available from week ending 6th March 2020. The number of contractors include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme.

Local Health Office (LHO) Area	Resignations since week ending 06/03/2020	No of DTSS Private Dentists	New Applications being processed currently
LHO 10 - Dublin North West	11	36	0
LHO 11 - Dublin North Central	9	35	3
LHO 12 - Dublin North	10	67	7
CHO Area 9 TOTAL	30	138	10

Table 1: Private Dentists participating in the DTSS in CHO 9

The HSE is aware that some medical card holders have experienced difficulties in accessing dental treatment under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme.

Where this is made known to the HSE, each enquiry and representation is followed up by local community services who seek to assist medical card holders.

In the course of 2020, services were curtailed for a period due to Covid-19 restrictions. Revised infection prevention and control measures have reduced throughput in dental practices. A number of dental contractors have resigned from the scheme, which has also affected access for patients.

As well as assisting medical card holders, the HSE is working closely with the Department of Health in relation to the operation of the scheme, and addressing difficulties faced by some patients accessing services.

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