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**Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 52134/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists participating in the dental treatment services scheme per HSE CHO region per year from inception; the number of dentists that have withdrawn from the scheme since 2017; the number of new dental treatment services applications currently being processed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

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.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE.


I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not readily available as requested. Data is readily available for the number of dentists participating in the scheme since 2011 by HSE Local Health Office (LHO) region. The difference in the number of contractors between each year include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme.

Prior to 2011, data is available from PCRS annual reports from 1997, and this details the total number of DTSS contractors per year per organisational management structure. It is important to note that health services organisational management structures and geographical boundaries have changed on a number of occasions since the inception of the DTSS through a series of changes from Health Boards to Local Health Offices, Integrated Service Areas and Community Healthcare Organisations. Both sets of data are available in the attached Excel Spreadsheet.

The number of Dentists that have withdrawn from the DTSS since 2017 is 489. The difference in the number of contractors between Jan 2018 and Oct 2021 include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme. The number of new DTSS contracts processed year to date is 81.

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