



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
31-33 Sráid Caitriona, Luimneach  
Teil: 061 464140

E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

National Oral Health Office  
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick  
Tel: 061 464140  
Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

**11 November 2021**

**Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 52141/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults on the orthodontic appointment waiting list for each county; the average waiting times for appointments; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Units. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

Appendix 1 outlines the number of patients waiting for Orthodontic Assessment by Regional Orthodontic Department. The data is not available by County as requested by the Deputy. As a result of staff redeployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reporting of treatment waiting times for 2021 is incomplete.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Green', positioned above a horizontal line.

**Joseph Green  
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**



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## Appendix 1: Numbers of patients waiting to for orthodontic assessment

Area	WAITING FOR AN ASSESSMENT WAIT BAND				
	1-6 mths	7-12mths	13-24 mths	>2years	TOTAL
<b>Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)</b>	330.0	100.0	0.0		<b>430.0</b>
<b>Former South West (St James's)</b>	359.0	449.0	861.0		<b>1,669.0</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	175.0	11.0	14.0	0.0	<b>200.0</b>
<b>DNE</b>	231.0	189.0	4.0	3.0	<b>427.0</b>
<b>South</b>	646.0	424.0	1,140.0	733.0	<b>2,943.0</b>
<b>South East</b>	429.0	275.0	560.0	284.0	<b>1,548.0</b>
<b>Mid Western</b>	14.0	3.0			<b>17.0</b>
<b>*Western</b>	514.0	327.0	576.0	136.0	<b>1,553.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,698.0</b>	<b>1,778.0</b>	<b>3,155.0</b>	<b>1156</b>	<b>8,787.0</b>

Table 1: No of patients waiting for an orthodontic assessment

\*North West Regional Orthodontic Unit KPI data not available