



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

E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

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

11 November 2021

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

PQ 52142/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults on the orthodontic treatment 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 Treatment 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 commence treatment

		WAITING TO COMMENCE TREATMENT CATEGORY GRADE 4 WAIT BAND						
	Area	1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13- 24mths	25- 36mths	37-48 mths	over 4 years	TOTAL
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	12.0	2.0	98.0	100.0	104.0	45.0	361.0
DML	Former South West (St James's)	40.0	22.0	53.0	271.0	136.0	129.0	651.0
DML	Midlands	74.0	2.0	142.0	113.0	165.0	427.0	923.0
DNE	DNE	1.0	0.0	38.0	115.0	124.0	383.0	661.0
SOUTH	South	99.0	86.0	418.0	615.0	289.0	131.0	1,638.0
SOUTH	South East	88.0	30.0	86.0	169.0	165.0	391.0	929.0
WEST	Mid Western	62.0	0.0	93.0	112.0	114.0	128.0	509.0
WEST*	Western	50.0	3.0	230.0	310.0	223.0	2.0	818.0
	TOTAL	426.0	145.0	1,158.0	1,805.0	1,320.0	1,636.0	6,490.0

Table 1: Category Grade 4 Modified IOTN

*North West Regional Orthodontic Unit KPI data is not available

**WAITING TO COMMENCE TREATMENT
CATEGORY GRADE 5 WAIT BAND**

		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13- 24mths	25- 36mths	37-48 mths	over 4 years	TOTAL
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	60.0	6.0	156.0	139.0	129.0	56.0	546.0
DML	Former South West (St James's)	86.0	47.0	114.0	254.0	126.0	113.0	740.0
DML	Midlands	115.0	2.0	130.0	64.0	37.0	31.0	379.0
DNE	DNE	5.0	5.0	79.0	220.0	222.0	138.0	669.0
SOUTH	South	89.0	73.0	352.0	555.0	274.0	43.0	1,386.0
SOUTH	South East	154.0	74.0	181.0	366.0	362.0	658.0	1,795.0
WEST	Mid Western	110.0	3.0	105.0	155.0	124.0	92.0	589.0
WEST*	Western	106.0	46.0	230.0	183.0	78.0	5.0	648.0
	TOTAL	725.0	256.0	1,347.0	1,936.0	1,352.0	1,136.0	6,752.0

Table 2: Category Grade 5 Modified IOTN

*North West Regional Orthodontic Unit KPI data is not available