



**Galway
University
Hospitals**

Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile Gaillimh
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GALWAY
MERLIN PARK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

**General Manager's Office
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway
Tel: (091) 544200**

November 10th 2021

PQ Ref. 52154 /21

To ask the Minister for Health the reason there is a waiting time of over three years to access public orthodontic services in County Galway; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Ciarán Cannon

Dear Deputy Cannon,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply to you directly in the context of the request for information referenced above, the following outlines the situation.

The Orthodontic waiting lists are joint lists for Galway, Mayo and Roscommon.

In relation to the Assessment waiting list:

Currently this stands at 1 year approximately due to the COVID backlog but this is being cleared and it is anticipated that this should be completed by next Summer.

In relation to the Treatment waiting list:

Urgent cases are treated around growth and individual risk assessments.

For Routine cases the waiting list approximately 4 years. They are currently starting to call those on the 2018 list.

Reasons for the waiting times :

- COVID backlog due to closures and slowing of service in 2020.
- Physical space for clinics.
- Shortage of orthodontists and nursing staff.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,


Chris Kane

General Manager

Galway University Hospitals