

10th November, 2021

Mr Brian Stanley T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Re: Parliamentary Question – 54099/21

To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in counties Laois and Offaly, respectively who are providing services under the dental treatment services scheme. -Brian Stanley

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and I outline the position as follows.

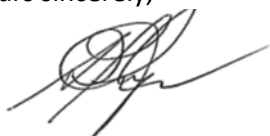
The Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) has seen many resignations nationally in recent times and as a result, many patients are currently unable to access dental care in their immediate locality and must travel within or outside their home county to access dental care with a participating DTSS contracted dentist.

There are currently forty eight (48) DTSS participating contractors across the Midlands region, three (3) of which are operating within County Laois and ten (10) in County Offaly.

Of those practices who continue to provide dental care for eligible DTSS patients, many have been unable to take on any additional patients as they simply do not have the capacity to meet the ever increasing demand. Also of note, there are currently no new applications being processed to join the DTSS with the HSE dental Midlands area.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,



Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation