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

PQ 56233/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on orthodontics waiting lists by CHO for each quarter since quarter 4 2018, in tabular form; the number of those waiting more than 12, 24 and 52 weeks, respectively; 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.

There is a high demand for Orthodontic services nationally. The demand for services exceeds the current capacity to provide the service, and therefore waiting lists apply across all Community Healthcare Organisations and in the SAOLTA Hospital Group area for this service.

A waiting list initiative (Framework Type Agreement 3983) to deal with long waiting times for access to orthodontic treatment commenced in 2016. Under Framework type agreement 3983, 1996 patients whose malocclusions are assessed as being Grade 4 of the modified IOTN were placed in treatment with private service providers. Under the successor Framework Type Agreement 11317, 676 patients have accepted transfer to private service providers.

The data is not readily available in the manner requested. The number of patients on HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment since Q4 2018 (for Q3 and Q4 of each year), is detailed in Appendix 1 below and is available per Regional Orthodontic Unit and not available per CHO as requested. As a result of staff redeployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reporting of treatment waiting times for 2020 and 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,



Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations



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Appendix 1: The number of patients on HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment since Q4 2018

	Waiting < 2 years	Waiting 2-4 years	Waiting > 4 years	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	573	383	54	1010
Former South West (St James's)	1228	1145	95	2468
Midlands	1201	566	370	2137
DNE	1751	788	344	2883
South	1513	649	5	2167
South East	1412	1385	253	3050
Mid Western	792	873	49	1714
North West	488	76	0	564
Western	1137	1052	0	2189
Totals	10095	6917	1170	18182

Table 1: Q4 2018

	In Active Treatment	Waiting < 2 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting 2-4 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting > 4 years on the treatment waiting list	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	1,134	1,101	483	55	1,639
Former South West (St James's)	2,648	1,907	535	47	2,489
Midlands	838	1,232	523	357	2,112
DNE	4,101	1,737	993	453	3,183
South	3,016	1,571	744	0	2,315
South East	1,141	1,260	1409	517	3,186
Mid Western	1,452	777	991	18	1,786
North West	950	488	69	0	557
Western	2,278	1,078	690	0	1,768
Totals	17588	11151	6437	1447	19035

Table 2: Q3 2019

		Waiting < 2 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting 2-4 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting > 4 years on the treatment waiting list	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)		533	475	36	1044
Former South West (St James's)		967	1132	55	2154
Midlands		624	534	910	2068
DNE		1,682	1148	503	3333
South		1,738	810	0	2548
South East		1,224	1345	454	3023
Mid Western		743	786	154	1683
North West		486	104	0	590
Western		1,087	622	0	1709
Totals		9084	6956	2112	18152

Table 2: Q4 2019

	Waiting < 2 years	Waiting 2-4 years	Waiting > 4 years	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	481	447	152	1080
Former South West (St James's)*	935	1073	327	2335
Midlands*		0		0
DNE	1,032	722	493	2247
South	1,360	792	89	2241
South East	853	1335	811	2999
Mid Western	555	840	328	1723
North West	473	212		685
Western	1,048	716	239	2003
Totals	6737	6137	2439	15313

*Data for Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*Former South West (St James's)* and Midlands* as at Q2 2020

Table 5: Q3 2020

		Waiting < 2 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting 2-4 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting > 4 years on the treatment waiting list	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)		*	*	*	*
Former South West (St James's)		811	1009	357	2177
Midlands		538	503	784	1825
DNE		1,032	722	493	2,247
South		1,262	907	119	2,288
South East		789	1286	986	3061
Mid Western		479	804	351	1283
North West		318	253		571
Western		990	823	174	1987
Totals		6219	6307	2913	15439

Table 3: Q4 2020

* Former East Coast (Loughlinstown) Data not available

		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
		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 4: Latest Available Q3 2021

*North West Regional Orthodontic Unit KPI data not available