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20 September 2021

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

PQ 43097/21: To ask the Minister for Health when routine and elective treatments including school dental checks and dental appointments for children and adults will resume in Kildare and west Wicklow; if any of these services have been suspended in any other CHO; 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.

Following engagement with Community Healthcare Organisation (CHOs) 7, the following outlines the current position for the provision of dental services in Kildare and West Wicklow;

Dental Services in CHO7 first moved to an 'Emergencies Only' model in March 2020, in response to Covid-19 Public Health and Safety Guidelines. As restrictions eased, scheduled treatments were reintroduced, however a situation has arisen in some areas where, due to capacity issues, Medical card holders are unable to access emergency dental treatment with DTSS contracted Dentists. The HSE Dental department has responded to this situation by offering emergency treatment to such patients. Adult and child emergencies are prioritised, but other scheduled treatments are available.

Detail of the provision of dental services in other CHO areas is outlined in PQ response 43096/21.

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', written over a horizontal line.

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