



11 October 2021

Deputy Alan Kelly
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 46091/21: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists that have withdrawn from the medical card scheme in each of the years 2016 to 2020 and to date in 2021, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE.

The data requested is not readily available in the manner requested. The number of dentists that hold contracts with the DTSS for each of the years 2016-2020 is available and detailed in the Table below. The difference in the number of contractors each year includes resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme. Data analysis on DTSS resignations commenced week beginning 6th March 2020. The number of dentists that have withdrawn from the DTSS for the period 06/03/2020 – 03/09/21 is 252.

Table 1: Number of Private Dentists that hold DTSS contracts

Year	National Total
Jan-16	1,664
Jan-17	1,664
Jan-18	1,446
Jan-19	1,489
Jan-20	1,497
Jan-21	1,311
Aug-21	1,204

Some dentists leave the scheme without notifying the HSE. In any one year the number of contract holders may include dentists that the HSE has yet to become aware of their exit.

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Joe Green', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations