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**21 April 2022**

**Deputy Réada Cronin  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 19095/22: To ask the Minister for Health if his Department has a dental welfare plan for State-run nursing homes given the close co-relation between dental health, heart health and new studies showing a connection to brain health in addition to basic chewing of food functions; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Cronin,

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.

There is a wealth of evidence on the links between Oral health and general health. Improved oral health has a positive impact on one`s health and wellbeing.

The oral health policy Smile agus Slainte proposes the redirection of the HSE public dental service towards the care of residents in nursing homes. This policy has not as yet been implemented due to delays caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

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**