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

PQ 19220/22: To ask the Minister for Health the way that State-run nursing homes are assessing dental and oral health and pain in residents who are unable to speak or are cognitively impaired; the number of dental checks carried out on patients in this cohort in each of the past five years in tabular form; 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.

Where resident in a nursing home is eligible for the Dental Treatment Service Scheme and requires dental treatment, the nursing home makes contact with the HSE or local dentist to provide the service.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. 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.

Data on number of nursing home residents that have been assessed by DTSS contract holders, and in some instances HSE Dental Teams, is not held by the HSE. Data is held on the proportion of DTSS contractors making a claim and the treatment items being claimed for.

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**