

16th December 2022

Deputy Denis Naughten
Unit 3 Golf Links Road
Roscommon
Co. Roscommon
F42 YX65

PQ 61078/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of dental practices in CHO2 which have ceased providing medical card services to persons with disabilities in the past two years; the medical card dental services currently available to adult persons with disabilities; the provision in place for those whose local dentist withdraws from the provision of medical card services; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Naughten,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The number of contracted Dentists who have withdrawn from the Dental Services Scheme (DTSS) in the past two years is 26. There are 46 Dentists in Community Healthcare West who hold DTSS contracts and all are advising that they are at capacity and unable to take on new patients at this time.

Nationally, many dentists have left the scheme and negotiations are taking place between Dental Representative bodies, Department of Health and the HSE. This results in many eligible medical card holders finding it difficult to source a dentist.

However, as catered for in the DTSS, the online and paper based system of applications for extra treatment items continues, which indicates patients with extra clinical concerns, both medical and intellectual disabilities, are being seen by Dental Contractors.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely,


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Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care
Galway, Mayo and Roscommon