



**19 December 2022**

**Deputy Martin Kenny  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 61199/22: To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of adult medical card holders who are currently on the primary care orthodontic waiting list in counties Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Donegal and Cavan, by year from 2016 to 2022 in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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.

The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class, so orthodontic assessments are limited to those aged under 16.

Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

Orthodontic treatment waiting lists are collated and reported according to HSE eligibility criteria Modified IOTN, Grade 4 or Grade 5.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the system does not hold data on the number of adult medical card holders who are currently on the primary care orthodontic waiting list in counties Leitrim, Sligo, Roscommon, Donegal and Cavan, by year from 2016 to 2022 as being a 'medical card holder' is not a criteria for eligibility on HSE orthodontic treatment wait lists.

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**