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**Deputy Aindrias Moynihan
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ Number 62032/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists taking part in the dental treatment services scheme; the number who have discontinued in each of the past three years; his plans to increase participation; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Moynihan,

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 reply.

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

There are 1,046 private dentists participating in the DTSS (end December 2022).

In 2020 a total of 176 resignations were recorded. During 2021 the HSE was notified of 93 resignations from the DTSS. In the same period there were also 98 other exits recorded and 93 new DTSS contracts issued. In the year to November 2022, 60 resignations and 47 other exits have been recorded and 48 new contracts have been issued.

On 1st May 2022 a number of changes and fee adjustments were introduced in the DTSS to support the scheme. These included an expansion in the definition of the Examination item with a corresponding fee increase and reintroduction of Scale and Polish. There were also significant increases in fees for certain treatment items including restorations, routine extractions and dentures.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

**Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**