



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
31-33 Sráid Caitriona, Luimneach
Teil: 061 464140

E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

National Oral Health Office
31-33 Catherine Street, Limerick
Tel: 061 464140

Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

04 February 2022

**Deputy Michael Creed
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 4992/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists that contracted under the dental treatment service scheme for medical card holders in each of the years since 2016; the range of payments made to participating individual dentists for each of those years; the total cost to the Exchequer of the scheme for each year; and if he will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Creed,

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.

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.

The number of dentists participating in the DTSS in each of years since 2016 to end December 2021 is detailed in the table below. The difference in the number of contractors between each year include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme.

(Note: contractors who have resigned but are still serving their 3 months notice period are included in the list as they are required to participate in the scheme for this period.)

The total value of claims reimbursed (€) for each year is also detailed in Table 1.

I wish to advise the Deputy the fees offered to dentists delivering free care to medical card holders have not changed in the period 2011-2021. The current PCRS information handbook (attached) details the fees on page 30.

Table 1: DTSS Data 2016 - 2021

Year End	Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract	Value of claims reimbursed (€)
2016	1831	€64,327,033
2017	1604	€63,369,808
2018	1644	€58,680,201
2019	1654	€56,075,566
2020	1486	€40,549,163
2021	1164	€39,600,000

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