



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

E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

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

Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

**04 February 2022**

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

**PQ 5067/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of practices that hold dental treatment scheme contracts with the HSE by county; the number of notifications which the HSE has received in 2021 of dentists seeking to resign from the dental treatment service scheme; 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 with HSE Dental Treatment Service Scheme contracts (at end Jan 2022) is not available by county as requested but is available by Local Health Office (LHO) and is detailed in the attached Excel Sheet. (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.)

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 2020 a total of 176 resignations were recorded.

A Dentist is not obliged to give a reason for resigning from the scheme. However, many contractors have cited the additional practicing costs, including cost of PPE as factors in their decision. Some have stated that they can no longer operate a scheme at a significant business loss.

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', positioned above a horizontal line.

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