



7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin  
Dáil Eireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 9259/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the status of the provision of primary school dental services in areas of mid west Dublin; the waiting times and availability of dentists visiting primary schools in the area in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**-Eoin Ó Broin**

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Dear Deputy Ó Broin,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

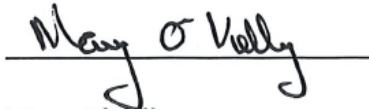
The model of service delivery of the Schools Dental Programme sees children invited to their local HSE Dental clinics for examination and treatment. Dentists do not visit schools to perform examinations or deliver treatments. Currently there are 9.7 WTE dentists staffing Dublin West with a 0.4 vacancy.

Children in 2nd and 6th classes for school year 2020-2021 are currently being offered appointments. Due to closure of some clinics, reduced services, and redeployment of staff for an extended period as part of the Covid-19 response, the school dental service in Dublin West is currently operating with a 12- 18 months delay. The table below outlines the numbers currently awaiting examination.

School year 2020-2021	
6th Class Age 12	1300
2nd Class Age 7-8	2100
School year 2021- 2022	
6th Class Age 12	2500
2nd Class Age 7-8	2400
<b>Total</b>	<b>8300</b>

I trust this information is of assistance to you but if you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary O'Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

**Mary O'Kelly**  
**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
**Dublin South, Kildare and West Wicklow Community Healthcare**