



7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Deputy Eoin Ó Broin  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 9260/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the waiting lists for dental checks for children at six, nine and 12 years of age in the mid-west areas of Dublin in tabular form; if there are delays in children receiving these checks; the steps he is taking to ensure that these children receive checks in a timely manner; 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 data table below is in respect of schools in Inchicore, Ballyfermot, Clondalkin, Lucan and Rathcoole areas. 6<sup>th</sup> Class (age 12), 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (age 7-8) are represented. 4<sup>th</sup> Class (age 10) have not been offered routine appointments for some years in Dublin West. Of the children in academic year 2020-2021, 1365 have received an examination to date. The remainder are as represented in the table. All children from the academic year 2021-2022 are represented in the table below as awaiting examination.

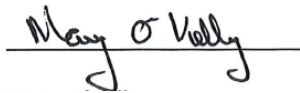
School year 2020-2021	
6th Class Age 12	1300
2nd Class Age 7-8	2100
School year 2021- 2022	
6th Class Age 12	2500
2nd Class Age 7-8	2400
<b>Total</b>	<b>8300</b>

The delivery of dental services was hugely impacted by the Covid-19 response. The HSE dental service suspended routine dental treatments for many months, offering only emergency treatment which was confined to pain relief and infection control. This has resulted in a delay in delivering the schools dental programme. In addition, the HSE dental department saw a further reduction in capacity, when it became necessary to offer emergency dental treatment to adult GMS card holders who were unable to access treatment by dentists contracted to the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

The HSE Dental service will continue to work to manage the targeted class cohorts currently waiting, provide emergency treatment to all children from 0 to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, and to provide emergency dental treatments to adult GMS card holders who are unable to access treatment on the DTSS.

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 horizontal line.

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