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Deputy Thomas Gould, TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ Ref 40703/ 22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children eligible for school dental visits in Cork in 2015”.

Dear Deputy Gould,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, medical card holders, adults and children with special needs and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age are treated in HSE dental clinics and adults are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to the Health Service under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

In 2015 the HSE Dental Service in Cork was generally screening two target classes, 2nd & 6th class children in Cork city and county. In some areas of the county they were managing to screen a third target class. i.e. children in 4th class. The school screening programme usually commences at the start of the academic year in September. The children in the target classes are identified by the schools providing the HSE with a list of children and their contact details and by the distribution of consent forms to the target classes.

Our records indicate that the approximate number of children who had treatment under the school screening programme in 2015 was as follows:

September 2014- September 2015 – 11,100

September 2015 – September 2016 – 11,000

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Priscilla Lynch,
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare.