



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
HSE Offices, Lacken
Dublin Road
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

15th June 2022

Mr. John McGuinness TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 29196/22

To ask the Minister for Health the actions that he is taking to ensure that persons with an intellectual disability and who are medical card holders have access to dental services; the reasons that some dental practices in County Kilkenny are refusing medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy McGuinness,

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

I have reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.

Persons with medical card eligibility and other eligible persons can access dental treatment through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). All medical card holders are entitled to specific dental treatments: dental examination, two fillings in each calendar year, extractions as necessary.

This DTSS list is updated regularly following our annual request for documentation for current registration. Unfortunately there is no pathway for the HSE to ensure Dentists accept medical cardholders as patients.

As confirmed by the Principal Dental Surgeon, there are currently no Senior Special Needs Dental Surgeons in Carlow/Kilkenny. This post has been advertised on two occasions but with no success in recruiting any candidates. The current number of dentists that hold a DTSS contract in Co. Kilkenny is 12, however there is some capacity issues within dental practices to treat patients.

A recent Circular (Circular No. 13/22) was issued to Dentists informing them of changes and fee adjustments/increases effective from 1st May 2022 which may increase the numbers of dentists applying for a DTSS contract.

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

Yours sincerely,



Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care
Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare