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**11 March 2022**

**Deputy Ruairí Ó Murchú  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 11933/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists participating in the dental treatment services scheme per CHO region per year from inception; the number of dentists that have withdrawn from the scheme since 2017; the number of new dental treatment services applications currently being processed to date; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ó Murchú,

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 total number of dentists participating in the DTSS since 1998 is detailed in the attached spreadsheet. Figures prior to 2002 are obtained from PCRS Annual Reports as no DTSS Trends Reports exist for earlier years. The numbers of contracts in the Annual Reports include HSE dentists with DTSS panel numbers (approximately 310 in 2000-2001). Number of contracts given for 2002 and after are for private contractors only as per PCRS December Dental Trends Reports.

The difference in the number of contractors between each year include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme. Data on DTSS resignations is available from March 2020. During In 2020 a total of 176 resignations were recorded. In 2021, the HSE was notified of 93 resignations from the DTSS. To end January 2022, the HSE has been notified of 16 resignations from the DTSS.

A Dentist is not obliged to give a reason for resigning from the scheme. (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.)

There were 5 new DTSS applications processed to date in 2022.

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', is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

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