



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

20th May 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 24154/22

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of persons under 18 years of age who are currently waiting to commence orthodontic treatment in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

&

PQ 24155/22

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of current vacancies within the HSE orthodontic services in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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

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

Orthodontic treatment is provided by the HSE where the person is eligible under HSE guidelines. A modified Index of Treatment Needs (IOTN) system is used to determine if a child can be accepted for treatment.

Once a person is deemed eligible they are placed on the orthodontic treatment waiting list. Unfortunately the HSE Orthodontic Service has had an extensive waiting list which has increased significantly over the last few years due to the challenges between increased demand for services and the availability of trained staff.

Age	No. of persons under 18 years of age awaiting orthodontic treatment in Co. Wexford
0-24 months	134
24 months-48 months	266
48 months +	124
Total	524

There are in addition 93 patients over 18 years awaiting treatment who were identified as requiring treatment before age 18 years.

Regarding vacancies, there are no vacancies for orthodontic staff for Wexford alone, but there is only 0.6 WTE Specialist for the whole county. However there is vacant full time Consultant post (currently advertised) and 0.4 WTE Specialist vacancy elsewhere in the SE and these vacancies affect the whole region.

Please be assured that the HSE orthodontic service monitors the waiting list on an ongoing basis in the overall context of available resources and prioritisation criteria.

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