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31 May 2022

**Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 25044/22: To ask the Minister for Health the number of private dentists who held a contract with the HSE for the provision of dental services to medical card holders at the end of each of the years 2017 to 2021. The total numbers on the scheme each year over the last 5 years and the numbers on scheme today.

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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 data requested is detailed in the table below for each of the years 2017 to 2021 and to date in 2022. The difference in the number of contractors between each year include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme.

Year (End Q4)	No. of DTSS Contract Holders
2017	1,431
2018	1,484
2019	1490
2020	1354
2021	1151
2022	1082

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

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