



22nd November 2022

Deputy John Brady, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Re ref: PQ 54297/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children who are currently awaiting an orthodontic assessment in County Wicklow, broken down by 1, 3, 6 and 12 months plus; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Brady,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Questions, which you submitted for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Orthodontic Service for children in County Wicklow is provided across two CHOs, in regional units in Loughlinstown (Community Healthcare East, CHO 6) and Tallaght (CHO 7). This service has lengthy waiting lists, due to the longstanding lack of capacity to meet the demand for public orthodontic services. Disruption to services, caused by the Covid 19 pandemic and cyber-attack, has further exacerbated access increasing the numbers of children waiting and the length of time they have to wait for assessment and treatment. The service is actively engaged in a programme of work to improve access and reduce the waiting lists, including targeted treatment initiatives in collaboration with the National Oral Health Office, ongoing recruitment and clinical prioritisation.

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Number of children with addresses in County Wicklow on waiting lists for Orthodontic Assessment	
Number waiting for Assessment, Less than 1 month	1
Number waiting for Assessment, Less than 3 months/more than 1 month	38
Number waiting for Assessment, Less than 6 months/more than 3 months	13
Number waiting for Assessment, Less than 12 months/more than 6 months	166
Number waiting for Assessment, More than 12 months	251
Total waiting for Assessment	469



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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Smyth', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Emma Smyth
Head of Service Primary Care