



08/11/2022

Deputy Chris Andrews
Dáil Éireann
Dublin 2

Ref PQ 54549/22

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in CHO7 who are currently on dental and orthodontics waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Deputy Chris Andrews

Dear Deputy Andrews,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to the above referenced Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for a response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Health Service Executive can confirm the Dental Service does not hold formal waiting lists. The delivery of dental services was hugely impacted by the COVID-19 response. The HSE dental service suspended routine dental treatments for many months, offering only emergency treatment which was confined to pain relief and infection control. This has resulted in a delay in delivering the schools dental programme. In addition, the HSE dental department saw a further reduction in capacity, when it became necessary to offer emergency dental treatment to adult GMS card holders who were unable to access treatment by dentists contracted to the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

The HSE Dental service will continue to work to manage the targeted class cohorts currently waiting, provide emergency treatment to all children from 0 to their 16th birthday, and to provide emergency dental treatments to adult GMS card holders who are unable to access treatment on the DTSS.

The below table outlines the waiting list for the Orthodontics services. The Orthodontics service is working on a number of measures to reduce waiting times for the Orthodontics services. There is targeted waiting list initiative underway with the National Oral Health Office for those waiting for Grade 4 treatment over 4 years. Significant resources are being invested in the recruitment of staff, including Consultant Orthodontists, Special Orthodontists and Dental Nurses. Prioritisation is a feature of the service to ensure that those patients identified as having the greatest needs are prioritised for treatment.

Waiting List	Number of Patients
Assessments waiting list	1,370
Grade 4 waiting list	436
Grade 5 waiting list	896

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

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Farrelly
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Dublin South, Kildare & West Wicklow Community Healthcare