



Oifig um Cheannasaí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483722

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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7th December 2022

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare St., Dublin 2

Re:. PQ 58426/22 - "To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently on the waiting list for dental examinations and check ups in Co. Clare by length of time waiting in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Wynne,

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

I can advise that the HSE Dental Services provide school dental checks to school going children when they are in second and sixth classes in Primary Schools in Co. Clare. The school dental checks were suspended during the initial stages of the pandemic in line with government restrictions and public health guidelines in place at that time and also, a number of dental staff were redeployed to the Covid 19 programme. When the service resumed, it had to deal with the resulting backlog and also a reduction in the number of patients that could be seen safely in accordance with the Infection Prevention Control (IPC) guidelines in place.

I can confirm that the dental service is working hard to catch up with the school dental checks and they are currently 12 to 18 months behind. The dental service is now starting to call children who were in sixth class during the 2021/2022 academic year (i.e. September 2021 – June 2022). Please see below table outlining the details of the information requested:

School academic year	2 nd Class	6 th Class
2020/2021	1,634	1,631
2021/2022	Undetermined*	1,671
2022/2023	Undetermined*	Undetermined*

*Undetermined – consent forms have not yet been issued for this cohort of children. Consent forms for the school dental checks are disseminated through the schools to the parents/guardians of the children in the relevant classes when that cohort of children are due to be called. Therefore, it is difficult to quantify the number of children that will be on the waiting list to be seen.

I trust this information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Mary O'Malley
General Manager Primary Care