



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

13th September 2022

Mr. Marc Ó Cathasaigh TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 41975/22

To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of the number of dentists in Waterford city who offer dental care to medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

PQ 41976/22

To ask the Minister for Health the breakdown of the number of dentists in County Waterford who offer dental care to medical card holders; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ó Cathasaigh,

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.

Persons with medical card eligibility and other eligible persons can access dental treatment through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). All medical card holders are entitled to specific dental treatments: dental examination, two fillings in each calendar year, extractions as necessary. I am attaching an updated list of participating dentists in the DTSS Scheme in Waterford for your information.

This list is updated regularly following our annual request for documentation for current registration. Unfortunately there is no pathway for the HSE to ensure Dentists accept medical cardholders as patients.

Over the past year in the South East Community Healthcare area, a number of dentists have withdrawn from the DTSS Scheme, the relevant Principal Dental Surgeon and the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) are advised of all exits. A recent Circular (Circular No. 13/22) was issued to Dentists informing them of changes and fee adjustments/increases effective from 1st May 2022 which may help to alleviate this situation.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Marie Lanigan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anna Marie Lanigan
Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director
South East Community Healthcare