



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  
Ballycummin Ave, Raheen Business Park, Raheen,  
Limerick  
Tel: 061 483722

13<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Deputy Richard O'Donoghue  
Charleville Road  
Kilmallock  
Co. Limerick.

**Re: PO 42917/22 To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adolescents on the orthodontic waiting list in Limerick City and County in both Primary and Secondary School in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter”.**

Dear Deputy O'Donoghue,

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.

The Lead Orthodontist, Dr. Mullane, has confirmed that there are currently 467 patients from Limerick City and County on the treatment waiting list for HSE Orthodontic Services Mid West (CHO3).

Dr. Mullane has confirmed that children are referred to the HSE Orthodontic services by the examining dentist following their sixth class school dental examination. Therefore, the majority of children on the waiting list will be secondary school children. Following assessment, the child is graded in accordance with the HSE Modified IOTN Eligibility Guidelines. If the child is considered to be eligible for HSE Orthodontic Services, he/she is placed on the treatment waiting list.

I will outline in the table below the breakdown of the 467 patients currently on the treatment waiting list:

	No. Grade 4 patients*	No. of Grade 5 patients*
No. of patients on the Mid West (CHO3) HSE Orthodontic Treatment waiting list from Limerick City & County	151	316
<i>*Grade 5 patients are those patients who exhibit more complex features of malocclusion, while Grade 4 patients exhibit less complex features of malocclusion.</i>		

Dr. Mullane advised that the orthodontic treatment of some Grade 4 patients is currently being outsourced to private service providers under the National Orthodontic Treatment Waiting List Initiative and this is having a very positive impact on the HSE Orthodontic treatment waiting lists. Dr. Mullane also advised that it is anticipated that the waiting lists will be reduced significantly in the near future due to the recruitment of additional clinicians to the service.

Dr. Mullane also advised that there are currently 29 patients from Limerick City & County waiting to be called for their initial assessment by HSE Orthodontic Services. She advised that this is the result of a very successful protocol in the Mid West (CHO3) whereby, 100% of patients are seen for their assessment within six months of their referral while greater than 75% of patients are seen within three months of their referral.

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

**Yours sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Costello', written over a horizontal line.

**Margaret Costello**  
**Head of Service**  
**Primary Care**