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26<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 45428/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of adult medical card holders presently eligible for dental services under the dental treatment scheme in County Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was 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.

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.

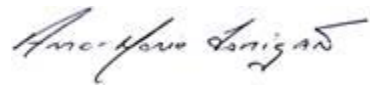
There are particular issues with the HSE Dental Service for adults i.e. DTSS. This is a nationwide problem and not unique to Co. Wexford. A number of private general dental practitioners (GDP) have resigned from the scheme and many general dental practitioners still operating the scheme have restricted access and are only seeing existing patients. South East Community Healthcare understands that matter is currently being raised and considered by the Department of Health and the HSE at a national level.

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.

The Principal Dental Surgeon for Waterford/Wexford advised that no records are kept recording the number of adult medical card holders presently eligible for dental services under the dental treatment scheme in County Wexford.

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 prominent flourish at the end.

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