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**Deputy Mark Ward
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 5868/23: To ask the Minister for Health the amount of children waiting for braces after public orthodontist recommended them for braces under the PRSI system; the average waiting time, per CHO area; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Ward,

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

It should be noted that public orthodontic services are provided by the HSE under the Health Acts and not as part of the Dental Treatment Benefit Scheme (PRSI) for insured workers and spouses.

The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class, so orthodontic assessments are limited to those aged under 16. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) assessment system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Modified Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

The latest KPI data for the number of patients waiting for Orthodontic Treatment at end Q4 2022 by Regional Orthodontic Unit is detailed in Appendix 1.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

**Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**



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Appendix 1: HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q4 2022

GRADE 4 Modified IOTN	1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37 - 48 months	48+ months	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	104	18	22	6	23	18	191
SIMMS Tallaght	70	73	87	44	110	4	388
Midlands	47	41	89	48	132	118	475
DNE	75	75	123	63	65	108	509
South	41	97	155	236	513	259	1301
South East	101	85	174	78	169	300	907
Mid Western	25	56	80	12	19	31	223
North West	15	28	35	68	106		252
Western	109	207	142	154	4	0	616
	587	680	907	709	1141	838	4862
GRADE 5 Modified IOTN	1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37 - 48 months	48+ months	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	157	27	54	24	28	37	327
SIMMS Tallaght	143	103	103	45	131	66	591
Midlands	69	33	59	5	11	18	195
DNE	124	92	211	136	242	197	1002
South	66	135	127	165	490	182	1165
South East	130	126	246	96	249	619	1466
Mid Western	46	81	134	55	146	161	623
North West	30	45	69	66			210

Western	133	228	152	140	4		657
	898	870	1155	732	1301	1280	6236