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1st March 2023

Ms. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ 8265/23

To ask the Minister for Health the funding for HSE dental services in the past three years in counties Kilkenny and Carlow; the number of children waiting for dental services in Kilkenny and Carlow; their waiting times; the locations in which children in the counties can have orthodontic treatment carried out; the number of orthodontists available to the HSE in this area; the criteria being applied that determines whether a child qualifies for HSE-funded orthodontic treatment; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Murnane O'Connor,

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 examined the matter and the following response outlines the current position.

Dental & Orthodontic Budgets in Carlow/Kilkenny for last 3 years:

2022	2021	2020
€1.63m	€1.6m	€1.53m

Number of children waiting for Dental Services in Kilkenny and Carlow areas:

Academic Year	2nd/1st Class	4th Class	6th Class
2019/2020	0	2078	0
2020/2021	443	2143	718
2021/2022	1990	1966	2043
2022/2023*	1990	1966	2043

*Estimate based on previous year, as school lists not yet uploaded to system

Please note:

Target School Classes are 2nd, 4th & 6th and cover 100 National Schools

- 41 schools in Carlow
- 59 schools in Kilkenny

Locations in which children in the counties can have orthodontic treatment carried out:

Orthodontic services are provided in Newpark Primary Care Centre, Kilkenny. Occasionally, patients living close to Waterford may opt to have their treatment completed at University Hospital Waterford.

The number of Orthodontists available to the HSE in this area:

- 0.6 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Specialist Orthodontist covers the Carlow/Kilkenny area. This is 3 days per week
- 0.4 WTE Specialist Orthodontist vacancy until May 2023
- 0.1 WTE Consultant Orthodontist visits Newpark PCC to complete assessments – 1 day per fortnight.

The criteria being applied that determines whether a child qualifies for HSE-funded orthodontic treatment:

The criteria to determine whether a child qualifies for HSE funded Orthodontic treatment is the nationally applied modified 'Index of Orthodontic Treatment' (IOTN) 2007 (copy attached).

Currently there are 553 patients residing in Carlow/Kilkenny on the waiting list for Orthodontic treatment.

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

Yours sincerely,



Anna Marie Lanigan

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