



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Cheanannais
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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31st January 2023

Deputy Ged Nash
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 1281/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the number of dental practices in counties Louth and Meath respectively who are/were in the dental treatment services scheme in each of the years 2019 to 2022 and at 1 January, 2023; if he will provide an update on the status of his stated plans to review the DTSS; the timeline for completion; and if he will make a statement on the matter – Ged Nash

Dear Deputy Nash,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows;

The DTSS contractor numbers have fallen over the past number of years, as outlined in the table below, the figures show the numbers of individual contracts held and the clear drop in providers in both counties.

There are 3 new DTSS contract applications in the process for Meath, which will bring the number of individual contracts to 11, a third of what was available in Meath in 2019.

DTSS contracts in Louth and Meath

	LOUTH	MEATH	TOTAL DTSS CONTRACTS
2019	28	33	61
2020	19	25	44
2021	15	14	29
2022	17	8	25
			Total @ 20th January 2023

The review of the DTSS is part of a fundamental reform of oral healthcare services, through implementation of the National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte.



The Government has made provision of additional funding this year to progress the implementation of the policy and the HSE is assisting the Department of Health to progress this.

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des O'Flynn', written over a horizontal line.

Des O'Flynn
Chief Officer
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation