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**Deputy Jackie Cahill
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 2194/23: To ask the Minister for Health if a rebate or grant is available to parents who avail of private orthodontic treatment for their children in time-sensitive situations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cahill,

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.


The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class, so orthodontic assessments are limited to those aged under 16. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) 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 Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

Patients and their parents can face difficulties in accessing orthodontic treatment with the HSE. These difficulties are expressed through the very high numbers waiting for assessment, and in both the numbers waiting for treatment and the length of time waiting for treatment. The predominant causative factor is lack of treatment capacity in the service. The HSE has introduced waiting list initiatives to address long waiting times.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the HSE does not have provision for dentistry grants and therefore does not have criteria through which such grants could be made. However, the Revenue Commissioners allow tax relief for non-routine dental treatments including orthodontic treatment, details of this relief and how it can be claimed are available on the Revenue Commissioners' website.

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