

26th January, 2023

Deputy Pa Daly, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 2215/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times in County Kerry for HSE dental appointments for children from 0 to 18-years-of-age, cross tabulated with the available age cohorts in tabular form.; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

The Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, medical card holders, special needs clients and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age are treated in HSE dental clinics and adults are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to the Health Services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). People who are categorised as high risk, for example: people with specified medical conditions, or special care needs adults, can avail of more extensive dental care.

See below table with the details of numbers currently on waiting list for dental appointments in Co. Kerry:

No. of Children Waiting	Wait Times	Age Cohort	Class/Academic Year
2000	4 Months	12 years	6 th Class - 2022/2023
2000	16 Months	13 Years	6 th Class - 2021/2022
500	28 Months	14 Years	6 th Class - 2020/2021

The service intends to resume screening children in 2nd class in primary school once the service has caught up such that children in 6th class are being seen while in 6th class.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare