

26th January, 2023

Deputy Holly Carins, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref: 2301/23

“To ask the Minister for Health the total funding for HSE dental services in the past five years in CHO4; the number of children awaiting dental services in CHO4, broken down per LHO; their waiting times; the number of orthodontists available to the HSE in this area; the criteria that are being applied that determine whether a child qualifies for HSE-funded orthodontic treatment; the number waiting for same; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

In relation to funding for HSE dental services in the past five years in CHO4 see table below:

Year	Dental	Orthodontics	Service leave agreement CUDSH	Total Oral Health Funding
2022	8,148,589.21	2,539,868.33	2,613,919.00	13,302,376.54
2021	8,171,554.38	2,425,659.25	2,613,921.00	13,211,134.63
2020	8,031,181.00	2,394,676.00	3,267,114.00	13,692,971.00
2019	7,874,751.61	2,431,261.96	2,727,520.00	13,033,533.57
2018	7,660,317.00	2,142,252.00	2,067,938.00	11,870,507.00
2017	6,317,869.00	2,033,277.00	1,896,125.00	10,247,271.00
Grand Total	46,204,262.20	13,966,994.54	15,186,537.00	75,357,793.74

Cork / Kerry

As a result of the COVID pandemic and the suspension of Dental School Screening Programme in Cork and Kerry, for a protracted period, Cork Dental Service is currently only screening 6th class children. The school screening of 6th classes is behind schedule. The number of children yet to be seen in Cork is as follows:

LHO	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Total
North Lee 6 th Class		90	1,400	3,300	4,790
South Lee 6 th Class		0	500	2,500	3,000
North Cork 6 th Class		0	800	1,500	2,300
West Cork 6 th Class		0	200	700	900
Kerry 6 th Class		500	2,000	2,000	4,500
Total		590	4,900	10,000	15,490

The number of 6th class patients waiting for assessment as part of the Dental School Screening Programme in Cork and Kerry is 15,490 children. In addition when we catch-up we will add the 2nd class in each LHO to this total, amounting to circa 10,000 children, which would bring the total to 25,490 children.

The current number of children waiting for orthodontic assessment in CHO4 is 3,093, and the current wait time is 12 months for attention (priority 1) assessment and 3 years for routine assessment (non-urgent). There are 2 consultant orthodontists, 6 specialist orthodontists and 3 senior admin dental surgeons with specified duties in this area. Qualification for treatment is determined by nationally agreed eligibility guidelines based on an international grading system (IOTN). All referrals for the service are triaged and given a priority rating by the clinical team.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Lynch', written in a cursive style.

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