



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Office of the Head of Primary Care  
South East Community Healthcare  
HSE Offices, Lacken  
Dublin Road  
Kilkenny

Telephone +353 56 7784100

18<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Ms. Verona Murphy TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**PQ 63656/22**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of children with special needs currently waiting for dental treatment under anaesthesia at Wexford General Hospital; the number of children with special needs waiting 24, 36 and 48 months and longer, respectively; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 reviewed the matter and the following outlines the current position.*

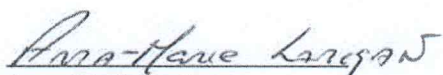
**The numbers of children with special needs awaiting dental treatment under general anaesthesia in Wexford General Hospital is as follows:**

| <b>Time Waiting</b> | <b>No. of children with special needs currently waiting</b> |
|---------------------|---|
| 0-24 months         | 24  |
| 25-36 months        | 27  |
| 37-47 months        | 3   |
| 48 months +         | 0   |

Access to the general anaesthetic service was reduced for a period due to Covid-19, which resulted in a significant increase in waiting times and in numbers waiting. Full access was restored in October 2022. The Dental Services in Wexford are working to reduce the waiting list as a service priority.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Marie Lanigan".

**Anna Marie Lanigan**  
**Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director**  
**South East Community Healthcare**