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18th January 2023

Ms. Verona Murphy TD Dáil Éireann Leinster House Dublin 2

## PQ 63657/22

To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults with special needs currently waiting for dental treatment under anaesthesia at Wexford General Hospital; the number of adults 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 adults with special needs awaiting dental treatment under general anaesthesia in Wexford General Hospital is as follows:

Time Waiting	No. of adults with special needs currently waiting
0-24 months	54
25-36 months	52
37-47 months	7
48 months +	0

Access to 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,

Anna Marie Lanigan

Head of Service-Primary Care/Assistant National Director

South East Community Healthcare