



Oifig um Cheannasáí Seirbhíse do Chúram Príomhúil
Cúram Sláinte Phobail FSS an Mheán Iarthair
Ascaill Bhaile Choimín,
Páirc Gnó an Ráithín, Ráithín
Luimneach
Teil: 061 483226

Office of the Head of Service for Primary Care
HSE Mid West Community Healthcare
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12th July 2023

Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare St., Dublin 2

Re.: PQ 32575/23 "To ask the Minister for Health the number of children currently on the waiting list for dental examinations and check-ups in Co. Clare by length of time waiting in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter."

Dear Deputy Wynne,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Principal Dental Surgeon has advised that the HSE Dental Service in the HSE Mid West (CHO3) area collates the figures for children on its waiting list for dental examination twice yearly. I am outlining the information requested in the table below.

It should be noted that as a direct result of the pandemic the dental service is dealing with a backlog of children who are waiting to be seen for their School Dental Checks. The backlog occurred due to a number of factors including the suspension of the service (face to face appointments), the redeployment of dental staff to Covid Testing and the closure of schools. Consent forms are distributed and returned for the target classes through their Primary Schools. When the service resumed, it had to do so in line with the Public Health Guidelines in place at that time.

The PDS has confirmed that at the end of January 2023, the total number of children waiting on a dental examination (School Dental Check) in Co. Clare was 5,623. This figure represents the total number of children in the target classes/groups (i.e. children who are in second class and sixth class in Primary School in an academic year) waiting to be called for their School Dental Check.

Academic Year	No. of children awaiting HSE Dental Examination (School Dental Check)
2021/2022	2,512
2022/2023	3,111

I trust the above addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager Primary Care