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**25 July 2023**

**Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 35090/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of May and June of each year 2019 to 2023, broken down by standard waiting times, by area in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The HSE Dental Services are provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. These services are delivered with a strong preventive ethos in order to minimise the incidence of dental disease in vulnerable populations. In particular this preventive approach involves the delivery of personalised oral health promotion for children and people with special care needs. Children are seen at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

The HSE Dental Service targets children in key school years (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted. The ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff, with backlogs emerging in the targeted schools programme in some service areas.

As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma. Children in targeted classes are offered dental examination, with individual care plans based on each child's needs. For routine and preventive services, patient groups are prioritised with children and adults with special care needs given the highest priority, followed by children in 6th class. Where service deficits are identified locally, additional resources where available can be redirected to address those needs.

The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to


reduce the backlog in treatment appointments. Delays in assessments may reduce opportunities for preventive measures as disease is not identified early.

Appendix 1 details KPI data for the Dental Service by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) and Local Health Office (LHO) end of May and June of each year 2019 to 2023. The reported metric is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. The Department of Education publishes the number of children in each school year annually (Appendix 2). Using the data published for the year 2021, the number of children in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes in the school enrollment for September 2022 is anticipated as 66071, 67423, and 71022 respectively (204516 in total) who meet the criteria for eligibility.

Appendix 3 details KPI data for the Orthodontic Service end June of each year 2019 to 2023, data is not available for end May of each year 2019 to 2023.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,



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**Anne M O Neill**  
**AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**



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**Appendix 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class) attending for scheduled assessment (2019 – 2023)**

CHO	LHO	May 2019	June 2019	May 2020	June 2020	May 2021	June 2021	May 2022	June 2022	May 2023	June 2023
<b>National Total</b>		<b>69,770</b>	<b>81,713</b>	<b>32,332</b>	<b>32,780</b>	<b>29,677</b>	<b>35,281</b>	<b>42,680</b>	<b>51,102</b>	<b>44,502</b>	<b>52,496</b>
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>10,597</b>	<b>3,865</b>	<b>4,027</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>6,455</b>	<b>7,551</b>	<b>5,527</b>	<b>6,482</b>
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	2444	2904	1392	1445	1127	1127	1879	2196	2426	2850
CHO 1	Donegal	3908	4447	1362	1362	1824	2163	3351	4004	2608	3072
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	2892	3246	1111	1220	1876	2545	1225	1351	493	560
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,029</b>	<b>6,810</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>2,691</b>	<b>3,250</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>4,468</b>
CHO 2	Galway	2324	2714	531	531	981	1054	361	437	888	1068
CHO 2	Mayo	1788	2011	622	622	784	927	798	936	1112	1395
CHO 2	Roscommon	1917	2085	791	791	972	1252	1532	1877	1710	2005
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,512</b>	<b>6,355</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>2,313</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>2,370</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>2,254</b>	<b>2,578</b>
CHO 3	Clare	1740	1982	889	889	240	323	763	961	827	964
CHO 3	Limerick	1231	1453	613	613	368	514	497	654	785	898
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	2541	2920	811	811	182	418	1110	1425	642	716
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,813</b>	<b>11,251</b>	<b>4,351</b>	<b>4,539</b>	<b>2,260</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>7,888</b>	<b>7,654</b>	<b>8,820</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	1575	1802	795	799	157	251	903	1113	1139	1283

CHO 4	North Cork	2169	2513	937	1013	465	491	1381	1723	1838	2134
CHO 4	North Lee	2217	2534	1130	1180	770	871	2089	2431	2023	2362
CHO 4	South Lee	3099	3564	1240	1295	727	818	1617	1912	1781	2031
CHO 4	West Cork	753	838	249	252	141	178	581	709	873	1010
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7,967</b>	<b>9,719</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>4,118</b>	<b>4,916</b>	<b>5,965</b>	<b>5,251</b>	<b>6,514</b>	<b>5,258</b>	<b>6,149</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	2097	2639	1096	1096	1373	1750	1245	1651	1035	1236
CHO 5	South Tipperary	2560	3132	1582	1582	1614	1892	1677	2004	2003	2381
CHO 5	Waterford	1728	2023	718	731	1171	1432	1283	1596	1256	1433
CHO 5	Wexford	1582	1925	709	709	758	891	1046	1263	964	1099
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>2,824</b>	<b>3,199</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>3,349</b>	<b>2,391</b>	<b>2,836</b>
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	3578	4082	2344	2344	2824	3199	2904	3349	2391	2836
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10,782</b>	<b>13,103</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>6,317</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>6,571</b>	<b>7,745</b>	<b>7,070</b>	<b>8,499</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	1193	1500	953	980	678	884	1603	1901	1239	1457
CHO 7	Dublin South West	2033	2411	1296	1296	1031	1282	1150	1387	1556	1823
CHO 7	Dublin West	2803	3308	950	950	1053	1277	2084	2397	2198	2681
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	4753	5884	3091	3091	471	699	1734	2060	2077	2538
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,742</b>	<b>10,378</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>2,752</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>3,783</b>	<b>4,198</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	1521	1823	692	692	1012	1093	875	1003	851	936
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1818	2133	588	588	896	1116	1011	1054	1133	1246
CHO 8	Louth	2697	3315	663	666	455	455	811	954	773	866
CHO 8	Meath	2706	3107	886	887	389	389	1132	1377	1026	1150
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,103</b>	<b>9,418</b>	<b>4,291</b>	<b>4,345</b>	<b>5,338</b>	<b>5,990</b>	<b>6,038</b>	<b>7,377</b>	<b>6,855</b>	<b>8,466</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	3616	4213	1534	1534	933	1124	1410	1865	1835	2318
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1071	1222	1120	1143	1318	1420	1393	1584	1556	1847
CHO 9	Dublin North West	3416	3983	1637	1668	3087	3446	3235	3928	3464	4301



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## Appendix 2: Department of Education Data - Target Population Academic Year 2022-2023

County	2nd Class	4th Class	6th Class	target classes
Carlow	914	920	1021	2855
Cavan	1128	1197	1234	3559
Clare	1520	1592	1584	4696
Cork	7473	7688	8127	23288
Donegal	2086	2215	2407	6708
Dubin(City)	5749	5739	5973	17461
Dublin(Dun LaoghaireRathdown)	2595	2539	2557	7691
Dublin(Fingal)	4548	4717	4844	14109
Dublin(South)	4366	4390	4453	13209
Galway	3515	3663	3836	11014
Kerry	1801	1940	2049	5790
Kildare	3581	3583	3857	11021
Kilkenny	1363	1371	1468	4202
Laois	1331	1332	1420	4083
Leitrim	469	444	489	1402
Limerick	2687	2762	2963	8412
Longford	604	678	679	1961
Louth	1998	2066	2198	6262
Mayo	1750	1766	1856	5372
Meath	3193	3188	3491	9872
Monaghan	943	962	1005	2910
Offaly	1154	1131	1229	3514
Roscommon	982	958	1000	2940
Sligo	867	944	947	2758
Tipperary	2182	2151	2283	6616
Waterford	1662	1690	1869	5221
Westmeath	1338	1423	1508	4269
Wexford	2232	2165	2320	6717
Wicklow	2040	2209	2355	6604
<b>National</b>	<b>66071</b>	<b>67423</b>	<b>71022</b>	204516



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**Appendix 3: No. of orthodontic patients waiting to commence treatment following assessment (2019 – 2023)**

No. of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2019								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	190	146	263	131	129	44	903
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	167	229	262	128	175	40	1001
DML	Midlands	301	227	175	209	270	347	1529
DNE	DNE	83	167	464	380	322	404	1820
SOUTH	South	560	249	762	568	176	0	2315
SOUTH	South East	112	87	255	323	342	253	1372
WEST	Mid Western	97	55	166	198	292	13	821
WEST	North West*	44	60	80	40	29		253
WEST	Western	162	85	367	339	126		1079
Totals		1716	1305	2794	2316	1861	1101	11093

No. of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2019								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	234	167	101	124	99	11	736
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	270	399	580	180	52	7	1488
DML	Midlands	248	202	79	26	18	10	583
DNE	DNE	108	250	665	231	60	49	1363
SOUTH	South							
SOUTH	South East	192	219	395	422	322	264	1814
WEST	Mid Western	125	113	221	230	271	5	965
WEST	North West*	63	132	109				304
WEST	Western	140	92	232	157	68		689
Totals		1380	1574	2382	1370	890	346	7942

**Table 1: No. of orthodontic patients (Grade 4 & 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment in 2019.**

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2020								
DML		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	24	55	99	89	163	90	520
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	27	67	275	208	328	171	1076
DML	Midlands	0	51	161	143	175	721	1251
DNE	DNE	32	69	208	191	153	429	1082
SOUTH	South							
SOUTH	South East	56	114	278	283	306	315	1352
WEST	Mid Western	54	56	166	170	198	178	822
WEST	North West*	30	110	178	113	22	0	453
WEST	Western	152	142	244	331	326	7	1202
Totals		375	664	1609	1528	1671	1911	7758

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2020								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	46	116	141	72	123	62	560
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	63	162	341	270	267	156	1259
DML	Midlands	0	105	231	122	67	70	595
DNE	DNE	69	116	538	306	72	64	1165
SOUTH	South	0						0
SOUTH	South East	70	141	347	351	380	390	1679
WEST	Mid Western	73	63	225	209	207	115	892
WEST	North West*	30	133	174	0	0	0	337
WEST	Western	184	188	177	168	173	2	892
Totals		535	1024	2174	1498	1289	859	7379

**Table 2: No. of orthodontic patients (Grade 4 & 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment in 2020.**

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2021								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	4	26	101	182	99	91	503
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	21	8	103	289	202	112	735
DML	Midlands	40	0	172	93	172	406	883
DNE	DNE	1	0	63	116	122	361	663
SOUTH	South	6	4	271	298	161	15	755
SOUTH	South East	38	34	161	314	259	468	1274
WEST	Mid Western	27	2	98	115	129	170	541
WEST	North West*							
WEST	Western	6	3	304	234	272	1	820
Totals		143	77	1273	1641	1416	1624	6174

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2021								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	22	41	159	118	103	60	503
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	81	36	122	289	202	99	829
DML	Midlands	76	1	231	93	82	62	545
DNE	DNE	6	3	117	229	220	96	671
SOUTH	South	11	6	308	307	127	8	767
SOUTH	South East	77	53	250	392	349	646	1767
WEST	Mid Western	41	3	104	160	140	176	624
WEST	North West*							
WEST	Western	45	32	320	124	110	1	632
Totals		359	175	1611	1712	1333	1148	6338

Table 3: No. of orthodontic patients (Grade 4 & 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment in 2021.



No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2022								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	0	1	4	29	62	27	123
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	26	23	8	20	66	50	193
DML	Midlands	46	62	31	171	90	277	677
DNE	DNE	6	62	92	57	25	105	347
SOUTH	South	185	135	141	312	213	234	1220
SOUTH	South East	86	99	99	133	154	352	923
WEST	Mid Western	57	52	30	97	75	10	321
WEST	North West*	20	37	47	62	67	35	268
WEST	Western	215	135	7	300	74	0	731
Totals		641	606	459	1181	826	1090	4803

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2022								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	1	6	37	69	86	129	328
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	60	38	30	125	86	38	377
DML	Midlands	63	53	7	23	10	24	180
DNE	DNE	15	105	178	160	225	279	962
SOUTH	South	209	185	153	397	237	107	1288
SOUTH	South East	126	149	148	172	263	536	1394
WEST	Mid Western	78	89	48	107	162	100	584
WEST	North West*	95	93	68	65			321
WEST	Western	260	149	51	230	46	0	736
Totals		907	867	720	1348	1115	1213	6170

Table 4: No. of orthodontic patients (Grade 4 & 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment in 2022.

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2023								
DML		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	79	17	5	2	0	0	103
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	44	20	29	34	9	24	160
DML	Midlands	27	1	9	2	12	74	125
DNE	DNE	29	90	59	45	68	173	464
SOUTH	South	122	43	258	155	424	428	1430
SOUTH	South East	111	90	178	95	131	381	986
WEST	Mid Western	53	9	18	7	16	35	138
WEST	North West*	9	7	6	1	11		34
WEST	Western	113	109	297	5	23	0	547
Totals		587	386	859	346	694	1115	3987

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2023								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	203	152	11	3	1	0	370
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	208	130	138	78	172	50	776
DML	Midlands	118	20	36	2	2	11	189
DNE	DNE	49	173	208	180	145	271	1026
SOUTH	South	148	75	242	134	312	272	1183
SOUTH	South East	139	128	269	140	157	652	1485
WEST	Mid Western	105	45	176	50	113	218	707
WEST	North West*	28	0	87	81	12	?	208
WEST	Western	167	121	320	29	26	0	663
Totals		1165	844	1487	697	940	1474	6607

Table 5: No. of orthodontic patients (Grade 4 & 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment in 2023.