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**Deputy Pauline Tully
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 35191/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults on the orthodontic waiting lists in counties Cavan and Monaghan; the average waiting times for appointments in each county; how many are waiting more than six months; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Tully,

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 Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE. Following engagement with the relevant Regional Orthodontic Units, below outlines the current position for the number of patients on the orthodontic treatment waiting list in Counties Cavan and Monaghan.

	Cavan	Monaghan
Total number of patients	185	538
		299 patients waiting over six months

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

Yours Sincerely,

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