



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
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**24 July 2023**

**Deputy Sean Crowe  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 35442/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists operating within the dental treatment services scheme, per CHO area, in each year for the past four years, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Crowe,

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.

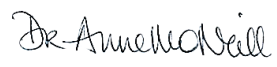
Dental Treatment is made available to medical card holders over the age of 16 through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). Dentists who hold a contract with the Scheme provide a range of treatments which are funded by the HSE. Patients may attend any of the contracted dentists – the list is available at local HSE Dental clinics and online at HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) Online Services.

The number of dentists operating within the Dental Treatment Services Scheme is available by Local Health Office (LHO) and not per CHO area as requested. The data for each year of the past four years and to date in 2023 is available in the enclosed Excel SpreadSheet. The difference in the number of contractors between each year include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme. (Note: contractors who have resigned but are still serving their 3 months notice period are included in the list as they are required to participate in the scheme for this period.)

The Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) recently wrote to 260 contractors with inactive panel numbers. These contractors had not submitted any claims since the start of 2021. Of the 260, 80 responded of which 71 advised they have left or moved practice and would not be keeping their DTSS number. 9 advised they would like to keep their panel number active. An exit date of the 30th June 2023 was placed against the remainder who did not respond as previously notified.

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

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr Anne M O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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