



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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16th June 2023

Deputy Durkan,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

PQ 26984/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the extent to which school health examinations continue including dental and ophthalmic; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

-Bernard J. Durkan

Dear Deputy Durkan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 26984/23) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

With regard to dental services, the HSE targets children in key school years (2nd, 4th and 6th classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted. 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. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment. The most recent available data in relation to the Dental service is collated in the following format:

No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1st/2nd, 4th and 6th class) attending for scheduled assessment (2019 – 2022):

CHO	2019	2020	2021	2022	Q1 2023
National Total	151,392	55,324	82,494	99,367	25,428
CHO 1	19,266	9,129	13,800	13,637	3,659.0
CHO 2	12,145	2,904	6,156	7,073	2,237.0
CHO 3	11,632	3,385	4,153	6,125	1,503.0
CHO 4	20,641	8,086	8,552	15,350	4,719.0
CHO 5	18,638	6,621	11,973	12,484	3,122.0
CHO 6	8,143	4,054	6,743	5,678	1,335.0
CHO 7	25,180	9,534	12,059	15,151	4,247.0
CHO 8	17,842	3,829	6,124	8,581	2,286.0
CHO 9	17,905	7,782	12,999	15,288	2,320.0



In relation to the vision checks provided to primary schools via the local Community Health Organisation, data is currently not routinely collated on a national level. These checks continue as normal.

I trust this is of assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seán McArt', written over a horizontal line.

Seán McArt

General Manager Primary Care
National Community Operations