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**2023**

**Deputy Johnny Mythen  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 27769/23: To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the creation of a mobile dentist unit to provide dental care for housebound people with oral problems; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Mythen,

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 Service provides targeted and emergency services to children and adults with additional needs. People with additional needs requiring special care dentistry are those with a condition, disability or activity restriction that directly or indirectly affects their oral health and is impacted by the personal and/or the environmental context of the individual. The HSE Dental Service organises service provision through Principal Dental Surgeons in local dental areas.

In some jurisdictions health services or charities have invested in mobile dental surgeries which are relocated to areas without local accessible clinics. As the HSE Community Dental Service has in excess of 150 dental locations, we have not invested in a mobile dental surgery. Many patients who have additional needs are able to attend dental clinics with support from carers. The HSE Community Dental Service liaises with these patients and their carers to assess their needs and support them in attending the dental clinic most suited for their needs.

There are a small number of patients who are unable to leave their homes for either physical or psychological reasons. As the provision of dental care usually requires a range of dental equipment and an infection controlled environment, the HSE Community Dental service liaises with these patients when requested in order to assess their needs and best plan for their care. A small number of dental procedures can safely be carried out in a patient's residence. Some of our Community Dental Services have invested in additional mobile equipment to facilitate domicillary care/ care in the patient's home residence

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*

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