



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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20 March 2023

Deputy Alan Kelly
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ Number 11217/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in County Tipperary who are on the medical card dental scheme; and the number of these dentists that are accepting new patients.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

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 reply.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists and clinical dental technicians that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE. The scheme is based on choice of dentist approach where the medical card holder can access treatment provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE.

The number of dentists participating in the DTSS is available by HSE Local Health Office (LHO) region, and not by County as requested, and is detailed below for relevant LHOs for 6 month period (end September 2022 to end February 2023) together with the number of private dentists who submitted claims for the same period. The HSE is aware that there are some areas with no or limited DTSS dentists that have sufficient capacity to accept new patients. Where access to a dentist is difficult, local HSE services assist patients who make enquires and make lists of DTSS contractors available to medical card holders. In exceptional circumstances, the HSE assists patients to access emergency dental treatment by directly contacting private contractors or arranging treatment to be provided by HSE-employed dentists.

| | LHO 22 North Tipp/East Limerick | | LHO 31 South Tipperary | |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|
| | Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract | Number of Private Dentists who Submitted Claims | Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract | Number of Private Dentists who Submitted Claims |
| Feb 2023 | 23 | 13 | 20 | 15 |
| Jan 2023 | 23 | 13 | 20 | 15 |
| Dec 2022 | 23 | 15 | 19 | 17 |
| Nov 2022 | 23 | 13 | 19 | 17 |
| Oct 2022 | 23 | 13 | 19 | 15 |
| Sept 2022 | 23 | 12 | 19 | 15 |

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, appearing to read 'Joe Green', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Joseph Green
AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations