



Oifig Ceannasaí Oibríochtaí,
Oibríochtaí Pobail, Cúram Priomhúil

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14th April 2023

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

PQ 15331/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will provide a schedule by CHO area of the number of primary school patients in the backlog and or have not had their in-school eye, hearing and dental checks.

- Catherine Murphy

Dear Deputy Murphy,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 15331/23) 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. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma. 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. 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 | Q4 2020 | Q4 2021 | Q4 2022 |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| CHO 1 | 9,129 | 13,800 | 13,637 |
| CHO 2 | 2,904 | 6,156 | 7,073 |
| CHO 3 | 3,385 | 4,153 | 6,125 |
| CHO 4 | 8,086 | 8,552 | 15,350 |
| CHO 5 | 6,621 | 11,973 | 12,484 |
| CHO 6 | 4,054 | 6,743 | 5,678 |



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|-------|-------|--------|--------|
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| CHO 7 | 9,534 | 12,059 | 15,151 |
| CHO 8 | 3,829 | 6,124 | 8,581 |
| CHO 9 | 7,782 | 12,999 | 15,288 |

In relation to the hearing and vision checks provided to primary schools via the local Community Health Organisation, data is currently not routinely collated on a national level and therefore we do not hold the schedules you have requested.

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