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**Deputy David Cullinane
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ Number 15957/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of January, February, and March 2019-2023 to date, broken down by standard waiting times, by area, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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.

HSE Dental Service

The HSE Dental Services are provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. These services are delivered with a strong preventive ethos in order to minimise the incidence of dental disease in vulnerable populations. In particular this preventive approach involves the delivery of personalised oral health promotion for children and people with special care needs. Children are seen at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

The HSE Dental Service targets children in key school years (2nd, 4th and 6th classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted. The ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff. Since the emergence of Covid-19, there has been a significant increase in delays in accessing routine treatment for those in target classes. This has resulted in backlogs emerging in the targeted schools programme.

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. Where service deficits are identified locally, clinical teams can be redirected to address those needs.

The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to reduce the backlog in treatment appointments. Delays in assessments may reduce opportunities for preventive measures as disease is not identified early. Levels of scheduled examinations improved to 65% of 2019 figures in 2022, but significant backlogs in treatment remain.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. Appendix 1 details KPI data for the Dental Service by Community Healthcare Organisation (CHO) and Local Health Office (LHO) end 2019 to end 2022 and to date in 2023. Q1 2023 is not available to report as of yet. The reported metric is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment.

HSE Orthodontic Service

Orthodontic treatment waiting lists are collated and reported according to HSE eligibility criteria Modified IOTN, Grade 4 or Grade 5.

The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system, and these are used to prioritise care, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

Appendix 2 details KPI data for the Orthodontic Service for end 2019 to 2022. Q1 2023 is not available to report as of yet.

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

Yours Sincerely,



Nader Farvardin,
Interim AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations



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Appendix 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1st/2nd, 4th and 6th class) attending for scheduled assessment (2019 – 2023)

CHO	LHO	Q4 2019	Q4 2020	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	Latest available data End February 2023
National Total		151,392	55,324	82,494	99,367	18,197.0
CHO 1	Total	19,266	9,129	13,800	13,637	2,566.0
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	5,116	3,571	3,135	4,250	1,118.0
CHO 1	Donegal	8,321	2,659	5,286	7,187	1,094.0
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	5,829	2,899	5,379	2,200	354.0
CHO 2	Total	12,145	2,904	6,156	7,073	1,622.0
CHO 2	Galway	4,317	531	1,486	895	389.0
CHO 2	Mayo	3,690	1,264	2,057	2,027	420.0
CHO 2	Roscommon	4,138	1,109	2,613	4,151	813.0
CHO 3	Total	11,632	3,385	4,153	6,125	973.0
CHO 3	Clare	4,148	1,481	1,307	1,784	330.0

CHO 3	Limerick	2,544	963	1,283	1,528	357.0
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	4,940	941	1,563	2,813	286.0
CHO 4	Total	20,641	8,086	8,552	15,350	2,945.0
CHO 4	Kerry	3,419	1,277	1,188	2,344	507.0
CHO 4	North Cork	4,105	1,710	1,494	3,252	734.0
CHO 4	North Lee	5,175	2,027	2,791	4,725	776.0
CHO 4	South Lee	6,369	2,415	2,233	3,763	646.0
CHO 4	West Cork	1,573	657	846	1,266	282.0
CHO 5	Total	18,638	6,621	11,973	12,484	2,081.0
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	4,992	1,690	3,418	3,075	426.0
CHO 5	South Tipperary	6,239	2,485	3,737	4,259	730.0
CHO 5	Waterford	3,919	1,608	2,972	2,909	587.0
CHO 5	Wexford	3,488	838	1,846	2,241	338.0
CHO 6	Total	8,143	4,054	6,743	5,678	816.0
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	8,143	4,054	6,743	5,678	816.0
CHO 7	Total	25,180	9,534	12,059	15,151	2,842.0
CHO 7	Dublin South City	3,175	1,627	2,363	3,456	534.0

CHO 7	Dublin South West	5,242	2,136	2,860	2,812	516.0
CHO 7	Dublin West	5,420	2,014	3,561	4,446	925.0
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	11,343	3,757	3,275	4,437	867.0
CHO 8	Total	17,842	3,829	6,124	8,581	1,519.0
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	3,154	720	2,188	1,902	359.0
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	4,317	875	2,633	2,212	427.0
CHO 8	Louth	5,547	1,100	709	1,812	267.0
CHO 8	Meath	4,824	1,134	594	2,655	466.0
CHO 9	Total	17,905	7,782	12,999	15,288	2,833.0
CHO 9	Dublin North	7,419	2,456	2,828	4,562	832.0
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	2,676	2,003	2,561	2,845	638.0
CHO 9	Dublin North West	7,810	3,323	7,610	7,881	1,363.0

Appendix 2: The number of patients on HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment (2019-2022)

Table 1: Q4 2019 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment (Combined Grade 4 and Grade 5 Modified IOTN Wait List Numbers)

		Waiting < 2 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting 2-4 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting > 4 years on the treatment waiting list	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)		533	475	36	1044
Former South West (St James's)		967	1132	55	2154
Midlands		624	534	910	2068
DNE		1,682	1148	503	3333
South		1,738	810	0	2548
South East		1,224	1345	454	3023
Mid Western		743	786	154	1683
North West		486	104	0	590
Western		1,087	622	0	1709
Totals		9084	6956	2112	18152

Table 2: Q4 2020 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment (Combined Grade 4 and Grade 5 Modified IOTN Wait List Numbers)

		Waiting < 2 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting 2-4 years on the treatment waiting list	Waiting > 4 years on the treatment waiting list	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)		*	*	*	*
Former South West (St James's)		811	1009	357	2177
Midlands		538	503	784	1825
DNE		1,032	722	493	2,247
South		1,262	907	119	2,288
South East		789	1286	986	3061
Mid Western		479	804	351	1283
North West		318	253		571
Western		990	823	174	1987
Totals		6219	6307	2913	15439

* Former East Coast (Loughlinstown) Data not available

Table 3: HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q4 2021

GRADE 4 Modified IOTN								
		1-6 mths	7-13 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	12	2	98	344	94	45	
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	40	22	53	271	136	129	
DML	Midlands	67	33	53	157	141	360	
DNE	DNE	1	9	57	116	83	80	
SOUTH	South	127	72	255	582	326	289	
SOUTH	South East	100	67	80	166	168	441	
WEST	Mid Western	52	27	47	123	104	90	
WEST	North West*	32	29	58	50	17	32	
WEST	Western	132	5	168	300	219	0	
		563	266	869	2109	1288	1466	6561
GRADE 5 Modified IOTN								
		1-6 mths	7-13 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	60	6	156	139	129	56	
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	86	47	114	254	126	113	
DML	Midlands	146	28	87	56	49	29	
DNE	DNE	8	26	114	195	208	183	
SOUTH	South	160	73	190	639	278	71	
SOUTH	South East	146	100	105	261	266	493	
WEST	Mid Western	89	44	53	142	146	93	
WEST	North West*	119	59	60	81			
WEST	Western	160	40	189	199	82	0	
		974	423	1068	1966	1284	1038	6753

* Data for Q4 not available, Q3 Data inserted

Table 4 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q4 2022

GRADE 4 Modified IOTN	1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37 - 48 months	48+ months	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	104	18	22	6	23	18	191
SIMMS Tallaght	70	73	87	44	110	4	388
Midlands	47	41	89	48	132	118	475
DNE	75	75	123	63	65	108	509
South	41	97	155	236	513	259	1301
South East	101	85	174	78	169	300	907
Mid Western	25	56	80	12	19	31	223
North West	15	28	35	68	106		252
Western	109	207	142	154	4	0	616
	587	680	907	709	1141	838	4862
GRADE 5 Modified IOTN	1-6 months	7-12 months	13-24 months	25-36 months	37 - 48 months	48+ months	Totals
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	157	27	54	24	28	37	327
SIMMS Tallaght	143	103	103	45	131	66	591
Midlands	69	33	59	5	11	18	195
DNE	124	92	211	136	242	197	1002
South	66	135	127	165	490	182	1165
South East	130	126	246	96	249	619	1466
Mid Western	46	81	134	55	146	161	623
North West	30	45	69	66			210
Western	133	228	152	140	4		657
	898	870	1155	732	1301	1280	6236