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12 May 2023

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

PQ Number 20908/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of quarter 1 of each year 2019-2023, broken down by standard waiting times and 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 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) Q1 2019 to Q1 2023. 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 the number of patients on HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment (Q1 2019- Q1 2023)

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 (Q1 2019 – 2023)

CHO	LHO	Q1 2019	Q1 2020	Q1 2021	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
National Total		42,207	31,880	16,933	25,057	25,428
CHO 1	Total	5,827.0	3,859.0	2,946.0	3,765.0	3,659.0
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	1,705.0	1,386.0	905.0	1,150.0	1,627.0
CHO 1	Donegal	2,505.0	1,362.0	935.0	1,840.0	1,615.0
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	1,617.0	1,111.0	1,106.0	775.0	417.0
CHO 2	Total	3,743.0	1,944.0	1,735.0	1,589.0	2,237.0
CHO 2	Galway	1,351.0	531.0	733.0	257.0	535.0
CHO 2	Mayo	1,192.0	622.0	436.0	508.0	650.0
CHO 2	Roscommon	1,200.0	791.0	566.0	824.0	1,052.0
CHO 3	Total	3,445.0	2,313.0	243.0	1,369.0	1,503.0
CHO 3	Clare	1,106.0	889.0	4.0	473.0	503.0

CHO 3	Limerick	725.0	613.0	188.0	249.0	564.0
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	1,614.0	811.0	51.0	647.0	436.0
CHO 4	Total	6,046.0	4,186.0	1,103.0	3,726.0	4,719.0
CHO 4	Kerry	987.0	794.0	29.0	533.0	760.0
CHO 4	North Cork	1,315.0	886.0	252.0	791.0	1,160.0
CHO 4	North Lee	1,352.0	1,115.0	360.0	1,251.0	1,271.0
CHO 4	South Lee	1,875.0	1,145.0	404.0	819.0	1,022.0
CHO 4	West Cork	517.0	246.0	58.0	332.0	506.0
CHO 5	Total	4,719.0	4,105.0	2,926.0	3,111.0	3,122.0
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	1,174.0	1,096.0	858.0	783.0	646.0
CHO 5	South Tipperary	1,417.0	1,582.0	979.0	1,029.0	1,172.0
CHO 5	Waterford	1,095.0	718.0	648.0	677.0	797.0
CHO 5	Wexford	1,033.0	709.0	441.0	622.0	507.0
CHO 6	Total	2,107.0	2,276.0	1,664.0	1,727.0	1,335.0
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	2,107.0	2,276.0	1,664.0	1,727.0	1,335.0
CHO 7	Total	6,252.0	6,080	1,439.0	3,639.0	4,247.0
CHO 7	Dublin South City	755.0	801.0	323.0	934.0	743.0

CHO 7	Dublin South West	1,128.0	1,296.0	476.0	790.0	775.0
CHO 7	Dublin West	1,772.0	950.0	550.0	1,034.0	1,412.0
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	2,597.0	3,033	90.0	881.0	1,317.0
CHO 8	Total	5,359.0	2,828.0	1,604.0	2,425.0	2,286.0
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	956.0	692.0	542.0	514.0	561.0
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	1,059.0	588.0	469.0	588.0	678.0
CHO 8	Louth	1,606.0	662.0	398.0	522.0	445.0
CHO 8	Meath	1,738.0	886.0	195.0	801.0	602.0
CHO 9	Total	5,249.0	4,289.0	3,273.0	3,706.0	2,320.0
CHO 9	Dublin North	2,285.0	1,532.0	443.0	875.0	1,140.0
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	771.0	1,120.0	788.0	932.0	955.0
CHO 9	Dublin North West	2,193.0	1,637.0	2,042.0	1,899.0	2,225.0

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

Table 1: Q1 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)		1,405	1,043	18	2,466
Former South West (St James's)		1,405	1,043	18	2,466
Midlands		1,212	549	376	2,137
DNE		1,720	869	510	3,099
South		1,496	769	26	2,291
South East		1,339	1,423	337	3,099
Mid Western		762	952	36	1,750
North West		606	319	0	925
Western		1,083	677	0	1,760
Totals		11,028	7,644	1,321	19,993

Table 2: Q1 2020 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment (Combined Grade 4 and Grade 5 Modified IOTN Wait List Numbers)

		Waiting < 2 years	Waiting 2-4 years on the treatment	Waiting > 4 years on the treatment	Totals
		on the treatment	waiting list	waiting list	
		waiting list			
Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)		556	397	103	1,056
Former South West (St James's)		1,020	939	123	2,082
Midlands		547	507	791	1,845
DNE		1,032	722	493	2,247
South		*	*	*	*
South East		1,200	1,323	510	3,033
Mid Western		748	758	200	1,706
North West		571	99	*	670
Western		1,253	610	0	1,863
Totals		6,927	5,355	2,220	14,502

Table 3: HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q1 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)*	1	7	104	99	93	44	348
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	6	8	154	239	241	161	809
DML	Midlands	3	15	179	124	181	406	908
DNE	DNE	0	0	101	61	179	126	467
SOUTH	South	70	104	405	301	174	107	1161
SOUTH	South East	40	12	200	251	256	588	1347
WEST	Mid Western	0	2	160	171	170	246	749
WEST	North West*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WEST	Western	3	1	388	264	242	52	950
	Totals	123	149	1691	1510	1536	1730	6739
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)*	3	36	161	126	106	63	495
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	75	18	234	317	224	107	975

DML	Midlands	14	40	242	110	72	66	544
DNE	DNE	2	2	213	355	303	63	938
SOUTH	South	82	10	475	353	218	33	1171
SOUTH	South East	75	24	336	423	335	535	1728
WEST	Mid Western	3	2	172	237	191	260	865
WEST	North West*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
WEST	Western	46	0	389	136	99	12	682
	Totals	300	132	2222	2057	1548	1139	7398

Table 4 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q1 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)	39	1	33	13	10	0	96
SIMMS Tallaght	73	31	14	126	134	30	408
Midlands	64	52	11	182	115	258	682
DNE	16	40	20	18	43	26	163
South	130	82	83	588	355	177	1415
South East	77	111	42	160	187	410	987
Mid Western	47	61	46	119	110	53	436
North West							
Western	177	46	3	403	101	0	730
Totals	623	424	252	1609	1055	954	4917
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)	48	71	148	131	105	28	531
SIMMS Tallaght	89	50	29	110	167	68	513
Midlands	103	35	4	65	22	25	254
DNE	411	367	436	121	157	207	1699
South	180	86	84	557	319	83	1309

South East	124	147	78	244	282	511	1386
Mid Western	66	111	51	135	151	53	567
North West	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Western	226	74	37	292	37	0	666
Totals	1247	941	867	1655	1240	975	6925

Table 5 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q1 2023

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)	37	6	5	2	5	4	59
SIMMS Tallaght	66	64	57	25	25	66	303
Midlands	50	35	87	1	3	74	250
DNE	45	161	120	59	63	129	577
South	60	92	191	95	537	298	1273
South East	110	93	183	41	160	382	969
Mid Western	56	51	7	4	20	24	162
North West	21	7	16	12	14		70
Western	112	186	227	3	39	0	567
Totals	557	695	893	242	866	977	4230
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)	107	27	17	1	3	4	159
SIMMS Tallaght	173	164	95	161	73	193	859
Midlands	75	17	38	0	1	12	143
DNE	60	237	201	123	217	208	1046
South	59	127	165	55	475	184	1065

South East	125	141	270	76	229	641	1482
Mid Western	89	92	138	55	139	143	656
North West	24	0	95	79	15		213
Western	152	190	237	25	36	0	640
Totals	864	995	1256	575	1188	1385	6263