



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
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**26 May 2023**

**Deputy Michael Ring  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 23780/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists providing a service to medical card holders under the dental treatment services scheme as of 1 January and 1 March in each of the past five years, by county, in tabular form; the steps his Department will take to ensure that services will continue to be provided; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Ring,

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.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE.

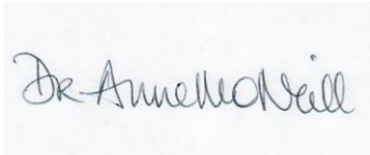
The data provided in the attached Excel SpreadSheet contains the number of dentists participating in the DTSS as of 1 January and 1 March in each of the past five years, and is collated per LHO as part of our trends analysis (It is not available by County). The changes in the number of contractors per year include resignations/retirements and new entrants to the scheme. (Note: contractors serving their mandatory notice period are included in the data until the conclusion of their notice.)

In response to representations regarding the scheme, a number of changes and fee adjustments were introduced in May 2022 to support the DTSS. These included an expansion in the definition of the Examination item with a corresponding fee increase and reintroduction of Scale and Polish. Fees for certain treatment items including restorations, routine extractions and dentures were also increased. Activity in the scheme and the number of active contractors has stabilised.

Oral healthcare services for adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy) – the implementation of which is included in priorities and funding from budget 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "Dr Anne M O'Neill" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

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