



Office of the Head of Primary Care
Services
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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13th March, 2024

Mr. Charles Flanagan T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2

Re: Parliamentary Question – 51697/23

To ask the Minister for Health, if he is aware of the current waiting times for orthodontic appointments for children in the public system across Laois/offaly.

Dear Deputy Flanagan,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outline the position as follows;

All children are placed on the Orthodontic Waiting List by way of the Index of Treatment Need (IOTN) Scale – which is the categorisation scale used in Oral Health as Grade 4 or Grade 5

The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the Laois and Offaly Orthodontic service is limited to children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. There are a number of categories within the Modified IOTN system and these are used to prioritise care, children who's treatment need is assessed on being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

In 2021 the National Oral Health Office (NOHO) completed a tendering process to provide orthodontic treatment to HSE eligible patients (Modified IOTN Grade 4*) waiting longer than 4 years for treatment. This resulted in eleven private service providers being contracted on Framework Type Agreement 11317 (a successor to Framework Agreement 3983) which will last for four years from 2021 – 2025. In 2023 a total of 427 clients have been referred to the NOHO to avail of the orthodontic treatment in the Laois, Offaly, Longford and Westmeath areas.

I set out hereunder the current waiting times for orthodontic appointments for children in the public system across Laois and Offaly.



TREATMENT Waiting List Analysis by Clinic Area

By County:	0-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	> 2 years	Total
Laois	19	9	3	13	44
Offaly	6	11	4	21	42
Sub Total	25	20	7	34	86

	Grade 5a & 5i	Grade 5m & 5h	Grade 4	NOHO Surgical Clients	Total
Laois	20	4	4	16	44
Offaly	17	3	3	19	42
Sub Total	37	7	7	35	86

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation