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**14 February 2024**

**Deputy Martin Browne  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**42218/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children on the orthodontic treatment waiting list in each of the last 3 years and to date in 2023; to provide the data on 6 month incremental basis; to provide the data per CHO; to provide the data with reference to the Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Browne,

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.

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.

Patients and their parents face difficulties in accessing orthodontic treatment with the HSE. These difficulties are expressed through the very high numbers waiting for assessment, and in both the numbers waiting for treatment and the length of time waiting for treatment. The predominant causative factor is lack of treatment capacity in the service.

Appendix 1 provides KPI for the HSE Orthodontic Service and details the number of patients waiting for treatment per Regional Orthodontic Unit, and not by CHO as requested.

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

Yours Sincerely,

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**Anne M O Neill  
AND, National Oral Health Lead – Operations**

Appendix 1: KPI Data HSE Orthodontic Service for number of patient waiting to commence treatment (Q2 and Q4 2020 – 2023)

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2020								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	46	116	141	72	123	62	560
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	63	162	341	270	267	156	1259
DML	Midlands	0	105	231	122	67	70	595
DNE	DNE	69	116	538	306	72	64	1165
SOUTH	South	0						0
SOUTH	South East	70	141	347	351	380	390	1679
WEST	Mid Western	73	63	225	209	207	115	892
WEST	North West*	30	133	174	0	0	0	337
WEST	Western	184	188	177	168	173	2	892
<b>Totals</b>		535	1024	2174	1498	1289	859	7379

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2020								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	24	55	99	89	163	90	520
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	27	67	275	208	328	171	1076
DML	Midlands	0	51	161	143	175	721	1251
DNE	DNE	32	69	208	191	153	429	1082
SOUTH	South							
SOUTH	South East	56	114	278	283	306	315	1352
WEST	Mid Western	54	56	166	170	198	178	822
WEST	North West*	30	110	178	113	22	0	453
WEST	Western	152	142	244	331	326	7	1202
<b>Totals</b>		375	664	1609	1528	1671	1911	7758

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q4 2020								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*							
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	43	77	446	278	245	161	1250
DML	Midlands	0	103	223	122	63	68	579
DNE	DNE	69	116	538	306	72	64	1165
SOUTH	South	19	97	527	292	152	6	1093
SOUTH	South East	57	87	343	407	369	443	1706
WEST	Mid Western	4	67	184	224	224	176	879
WEST	North West*	10	42	131	128			311
WEST	Western	50	183	290	158	122	43	846
<b>Totals</b>		252	772	2682	1915	1247	961	7829

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q4 2020								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*							
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	12	17	216	208	278	196	927
DML	Midlands	0	51	161	143	175	716	1246
DNE	DNE	32	69	208	191	153	429	1082
SOUTH	South	32	164	423	255	208	113	1195
SOUTH	South East	38	47	217	228	282	543	1355
WEST	Mid Western	2	56	166	166	190	175	755
WEST	North West*	0	25	110	85	40		260
WEST	Western	3	152	312	292	251	131	1141
<b>Totals</b>		119	581	1813	1568	1577	2303	7961

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2021								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37- 48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	22	41	159	118	103	60	503
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	81	36	122	289	202	99	829
DML	Midlands	76	1	231	93	82	62	545
DNE	DNE	6	3	117	229	220	96	671
SOUTH	South	11	6	308	307	127	8	767
SOUTH	South East	77	53	250	392	349	646	1767
WEST	Mid Western	41	3	104	160	140	176	624
WEST	North West*							
WEST	Western	45	32	320	124	110	1	632
<b>Totals</b>		359	175	1611	1712	1333	1148	6338

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2021								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37- 48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	4	26	101	182	99	91	503
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	21	8	103	289	202	112	735
DML	Midlands	40	0	172	93	172	406	883
DNE	DNE	1	0	63	116	122	361	663
SOUTH	South	6	4	271	298	161	15	755
SOUTH	South East	38	34	161	314	259	468	1274
WEST	Mid Western	27	2	98	115	129	170	541
WEST	North West*							
WEST	Western	6	3	304	234	272	1	820
<b>Totals</b>		143	77	1273	1641	1416	1624	6174

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q4 2021								
		1-6 mths	7-12mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*							
DML	Former South West (St James's)*							
DML	Midlands	146	28	87	56	49	29	395
DNE	DNE	8	26	114	195	208	183	734
SOUTH	South	160	73	190	639	278	71	1411
SOUTH	South East	146	100	105	261	266	493	1371
WEST	Mid Western	89	44	53	142	146	93	567
WEST	North West*							
WEST	Western	160	40	189	199	82	0	670
<b>Totals</b>		<b>709</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>1492</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>5148</b>

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q4 2021								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*				344	94		438
DML	Former South West (St James's)*							
DML	Midlands	67	33	53	157	141	360	811
DNE	DNE	1	9	57	116	83	80	346
SOUTH	South	127	72	255	582	326	289	1651
SOUTH	South East	100	67	80	166	168	441	1022
WEST	Mid Western	52	27	47	123	104	90	443
WEST	North West*							
WEST	Western	132	5	168	300	219	0	824
<b>Totals</b>		<b>479</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>1788</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>1260</b>	<b>5535</b>

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2022								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	1	6	37	69	86	129	328
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	60	38	30	125	86	38	377
DML	Midlands	63	53	7	23	10	24	180
DNE	DNE	15	105	178	160	225	279	962
SOUTH	South	209	185	153	397	237	107	1288
SOUTH	South East	126	149	148	172	263	536	1394
WEST	Mid Western	78	89	48	107	162	100	584
WEST	North West*	95	93	68	65			321
WEST	Western	260	149	51	230	46	0	736
<b>Totals</b>		907	867	720	1348	1115	1213	6170

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2022								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	0	1	4	29	62	27	123
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	26	23	8	20	66	50	193
DML	Midlands	46	62	31	171	90	277	677
DNE	DNE	6	62	92	57	25	105	347
SOUTH	South	185	135	141	312	213	234	1220
SOUTH	South East	86	99	99	133	154	352	923
WEST	Mid Western	57	52	30	97	75	10	321
WEST	North West*	20	37	47	62	67	35	268
WEST	Western	215	135	7	300	74	0	731
<b>Totals</b>		641	606	459	1181	826	1090	4803

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q4 2022								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	157	27	54	24	28	37	327
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	143	103	103	45	131	66	591
DML	Midlands	69	33	59	5	11	18	195
DNE	DNE	124	92	211	136	242	197	1002
SOUTH	South	66	135	127	165	490	182	1165
SOUTH	South East	130	126	246	96	249	619	1466
WEST	Mid Western	46	81	134	55	146	161	623
WEST	North West*	30	45	69	66			210
WEST	Western	133	228	152	140	4	0	657
<b>Totals</b>		898	870	1155	732	1301	1280	6236

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q4 2022								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	104	18	22	6	23	18	191
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	70	73	87	44	110	4	388
DML	Midlands	47	41	89	48	132	118	475
DNE	DNE	75	75	123	63	65	108	509
SOUTH	South	41	97	155	236	513	259	1301
SOUTH	South East	101	85	174	78	169	300	907
WEST	Mid Western	25	56	80	12	19	31	223
WEST	North West*	15	28	35	68	106		252
WEST	Western	109	207	142	154	4	0	616
<b>Totals</b>		587	680	907	709	1141	838	4862

**No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2023**

		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37- 48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	203	152	11	3	1	0	370
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	208	130	138	78	172	50	776
DML	Midlands	118	20	36	2	2	11	189
DNE	DNE	49	173	208	180	145	271	1026
SOUTH	South	148	75	242	134	312	272	1183
SOUTH	South East	139	128	269	140	157	652	1485
WEST	Mid Western	105	45	176	50	113	218	707
WEST	North West*	28	0	87	81	12	?	208
WEST	Western	167	121	320	29	26	0	663
<b>Totals</b>		1165	844	1487	697	940	1474	6607

**No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2023**

		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37- 48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	79	17	5	2	0	0	103
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	44	20	29	34	9	24	160
DML	Midlands	27	1	9	2	12	74	125
DNE	DNE	29	90	59	45	68	173	464
SOUTH	South	122	43	258	155	424	428	1430
SOUTH	South East	111	90	178	95	131	381	986
WEST	Mid Western	53	9	18	7	16	35	138
WEST	North West*	9	7	6	1	11		34
WEST	Western	113	109	297	5	23		547
<b>Totals</b>		587	386	859	346	694	1115	3987