



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
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**Deputy Holly Cairns
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

44984/23: To ask the Minister for Health the current orthodontic waiting times for Dublin, Limerick and Cork; the number of patients in each seen by public orthodontists to date in 2023; the number of patients in each outsourced to private orthodontists to date in 2023; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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.

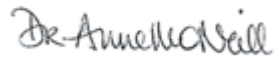
The HSE Orthodontic Service is provided in Regional Orthodontic Departments. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. Referral for orthodontic assessment is usually made in 6th Class. The Modified Index 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.

Appendix 1 (a, b) details the KPI data for the number of patients waiting for orthodontic treatment and the number of patients in active treatment in the relevant Regional Orthodontic Departments as of June 2023. Please note that data is not available as requested and Regional Orthodontic Units also treat patients from outside the counties of Dublin, Limerick and Cork.

A procurement framework is in place with private orthodontic service providers for the period 2021-2024 for the provision of treatment of patients assessed as Grade 4, waiting in excess of 4 years. Under this arrangement, the Appendix 1 (c) details the number of patients who have transferred to private service providers. The data is not available by County as requested but is available by CHO Area.

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

Yours Sincerely,



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



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Appendix 1 (a) No. of orthodontic patients waiting to commence treatment following assessment Q2 2023

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 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
DNE	Dublin North East	49	173	208	180	145	271	1026
SOUTH	South (Cork and Kerry)	148	75	242	134	312	272	1183
WEST	Mid Western (Limerick, Clare, Nth Tipperary)	105	45	176	50	113	218	707
Totals		713	575	775	445	743	811	4062

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
DNE	Dublin North East	29	90	59	45	68	173	464
SOUTH	South (Cork and Kerry)	122	43	258	155	424	428	1430
WEST	Mid Western (Limerick, Clare, Nth Tipperary)	53	9	18	7	16	35	138
Totals		327	179	369	243	517	660	2295

(b) No. of orthodontic patients in active treatment following assessment Q2 2023

Area	Area Description	No. of Patients
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)	879
DML	Former South West (St James's)	2,015
DNE	Dublin North East	1,040
SOUTH	South (Cork and Kerry)	1,937
WEST	Mid Western (Limerick, Clare, Nth Tipperary)	1,340
Totals		7211

(c) No. of orthodontic patients who have transferred to private service providers in 2023 by CHO Area.

CHO AREA	NUMBER OF PATIENTS ACCEPTING TRANSFER
CHO6 – Dublin Wicklow	206
CHO 7 – Dublin Kildare	319
CHO 9 – North Dublin	235
CHO 3 – Clare, Limerick, North Tipperary	246
CHO 4 – Cork, Kerry	122