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**14 February 2024**

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

**PQ Number 45854/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of September of each year 2019-2023, broken down by standard waiting times, 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.

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 (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

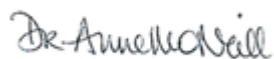
The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to reduce the backlog in treatment appointments. Delays in assessments may reduce

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.

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.

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**



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**Appendix 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class) attending for scheduled assessment (2019 – 2023)**

CHO	LHO	Q3 2019	Q3 2020	Q3 2021	Q3 2022	Aug 2023 (Latest Available)
<b>National Total</b>		115,385	39,919	56,903	75,031	68351
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,063</b>	<b>6,326</b>	<b>9,439</b>	<b>10,712</b>	<b>8,137</b>
CHO 1	Cavan Monaghan	3,736	2,534	1,871	3,144	3,563
CHO 1	Donegal	6,099	1,755	3,504	5,750	3,915
CHO 1	Sligo Leitrim	4,228	2,037	4,064	1,818	659
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,297</b>	<b>2,246</b>	<b>4,646</b>	<b>5,057</b>	<b>5,936</b>
CHO 2	Galway	3,392	531	1,283	573	1,525
CHO 2	Mayo	2,856	796	1,503	1,446	1,796
CHO 2	Roscommon	3,049	919	1,860	3,038	2,615
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,855</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>2,822</b>	<b>4,515</b>	<b>3,289</b>

CHO 3	Clare	2,971	1,113	736	1,311	1,178
CHO 3	Limerick	1,912	690	1,006	1,025	1,165
CHO 3	North Tipperary East Limerick	3,972	864	1,080	2,179	946
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,808</b>	<b>5,723</b>	<b>5,302</b>	<b>11,551</b>	<b>11,118</b>
CHO 4	Kerry	2,623	910	707	1,781	1,637
CHO 4	North Cork	3,396	1,268	959	2,425	2,618
CHO 4	North Lee	3,783	1,452	1,722	3,529	3,075
CHO 4	South Lee	4,861	1,726	1,439	2,863	2,537
CHO 4	West Cork	1,145	367	475	953	1,251
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,318</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>8,669</b>	<b>9,682</b>	<b>7,784</b>
CHO 5	Carlow Kilkenny	3,985	1,387	2,600	2,468	1,507
CHO 5	South Tipperary	4,630	1,791	2,662	3,197	3,068
CHO 5	Waterford	2,889	1,020	2,035	2,214	1,828
CHO 5	Wexford	2,814	726	1,372	1,803	1,381
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,060</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>4,824</b>	<b>4,621</b>	<b>4,077</b>
CHO 6	Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	6,060	2,804	4,824	4,621	4,077
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,847</b>	<b>7,257</b>	<b>7,996</b>	<b>11,346</b>	<b>11,135</b>
CHO 7	Dublin South City	2,504	1,253	1,488	2,488	2,184

CHO 7	Dublin South West	3,929	1,542	2,072	2,225	2,066
CHO 7	Dublin West	4,444	1,262	2,398	3,376	3,315
CHO 7	Kildare West Wicklow	8,970	3,200	2,038	3,257	3,570
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,708</b>	<b>2,909</b>	<b>4,379</b>	<b>6,558</b>	<b>5,319</b>
CHO 8	Laois Offaly	2,561	692	1,694	1,523	1,177
CHO 8	Longford Westmeath	3,204	588	1,841	1,633	1,503
CHO 8	Louth	4,086	711	455	1,406	1,208
CHO 8	Meath	3,857	918	389	1,996	1,431
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,429</b>	<b>5,063</b>	<b>8,826</b>	<b>10,989</b>	<b>11,556</b>
CHO 9	Dublin North	5,906	1,688	1,915	3,159	3,432
CHO 9	Dublin North Central	1,997	1,315	1,739	2,140	2,738
CHO 9	Dublin North West	5,526	2,060	5,172	5,690	5,386

Appendix 2: The number of patients on HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment (2019-2023)

Table 1: Q3 2019 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	47	45	122	106	111	0	431
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	108	200	174	343	228	35	1088
DML	Midlands	71	72	202	212	155	803	1515
DNE	DNE	112	168	493	421	298	475	1967
SOUTH	South	439	515	679	375	161	1	2170
SOUTH	South East	96	119	245	313	345	273	1391
WEST	Mid Western	72	80	158	219	195	62	786
WEST	North West*	66	71	60	35	19		251
WEST	Western	166	168	283	350	131		1098
<b>Totals</b>		1177	1438	2416	2374	1643	1649	10697

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	109	88	125	96	82	30	530
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	155	332	265	294	216	44	1306
DML	Midlands	130	98	164	76	70	59	597
DNE	DNE	111	227	608	220	60	59	1285
SOUTH	South							
SOUTH	South East	173	203	441	429	312	169	1727
WEST	Mid Western	85	120	217	249	224	47	942
WEST	North West*	94	128	126				348
WEST	Western	177	183	183	180	59		782
<b>Totals</b>		1034	1379	2129	1544	1023	408	7517

Table 2: Q3 2020 HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment

\* Former East Coast (Loughlinstown) Data not available

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		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)*	0	65	295	168	318	168	1014
DML	Midlands	0	51	161	143	175	719	1249
DNE	DNE	32	69	208	191	153	429	1082
SOUTH	South	13	216	380	242	178	85	1114
SOUTH	South East	19	84	213	246	304	345	1211
WEST	Mid Western	0	85	166	161	217	199	828
WEST	North West*	0	55	85	87	125		352
WEST	Western	38	177	310	269	215	156	1165
<b>Totals</b>		102	802	1818	1507	1685	2101	8015

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		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)*	21	111	413	230	237	138	1150
DML	Midlands	0	105	231	122	67	70	595
DNE	DNE	69	116	538	306	72	64	1165
SOUTH	South	11	209	531	278	94	4	1127
SOUTH	South East	39	133	365	395	390	466	1788
WEST	Mid Western	2	105	197	216	246	129	895
WEST	North West*	0	179	154				333
WEST	Western	56	218	249	142	90	83	838
<b>Totals</b>		198	1176	2678	1689	1196	954	7891

**Table 3: HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q3 2021**

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	12	2	98	100	104	45	361
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	40	22	53	271	136	129	651
DML	Midlands	74	2	142	113	165	427	923
DNE	DNE	1	0	38	115	124	383	661
SOUTH	South	99	86	418	615	289	131	1638
SOUTH	South East	88	30	86	169	165	391	929
WEST	Mid Western	62	0	93	112	114	128	509
WEST	North West*	32	29	58	50	17	32	218
WEST	Western	50	3	230	310	223	2	818
<b>Totals</b>		458	174	1216	1855	1337	1668	6708

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	60	6	156	139	129	56	546
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	86	47	114	254	126	113	740
DML	Midlands	115	2	130	64	37	31	379
DNE	DNE	5	5	79	220	222	138	669
SOUTH	South	89	73	352	555	274	43	1386
SOUTH	South East	154	74	181	366	362	658	1795
WEST	Mid Western	110	3	105	155	124	92	589
WEST	North West*	119	59	60	81			319
WEST	Western	106	46	230	183	78	5	648
<b>Totals</b>		844	315	1407	2017	1352	1136	7071



Table 4; HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q3 2022

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	39	29	9	32	20	18	147
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	71	44	39	56	75	41	326
DML	Midlands	49	58	56	140	108	282	693
DNE	DNE	34	75	116	62	53	125	465
SOUTH	South	78	112	195	380	431	172	1368
SOUTH	South East	97	78	148	97	170	433	1023
WEST	Mid Western	38	47	65	76	65	21	312
WEST	North West*	7	31	40	65	78		221
WEST	Western	180	175	50	223	35	0	663
<b>Totals</b>		593	649	718	1131	1035	1092	5218

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
DML	Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*	79	31	52	60	7	56	285
DML	Former South West (St James's)*	109	89	60	146	156	89	649
DML	Midlands	45	57	17	11	10	23	163
DNE	DNE	59	186	212	137	227	269	1090
SOUTH	South	137	165	160	333	425	110	1330
SOUTH	South East	140	124	216	121	261	590	1452
WEST	Mid Western	51	67	113	83	151	126	591
WEST	North West*	18	36	75	86			215
WEST	Western	192	204	90	162	32	0	680
<b>Totals</b>		830	959	995	1139	1269	1263	6455

Table 5; HSE Orthodontic waiting lists for treatment: Q2 2023 (Latest Available)

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
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
Totals		1165	844	1487	697	940	1474	6607

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) 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)*	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
Totals		587	386	859	346	694	1115	3987