



**Cúram Sláinte
Phobail, Iarthar**
ag freastal ar Ghailimh,
Maigheo agus Ros Comáin

**Community
Healthcare West**
serving Galway, Mayo
and Roscommon

Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim

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25th August 2023

Claire Kerrane
Sinn Féin TD for Galway/Roscommon
Bridge Street
Ballinasloe
Co Galway

RE: PQ 38366/23

“To ask the Minister for Health what services are available under the dental treatment services scheme in County Roscommon; what action is being taken to ensure that medical card holders can access dental services in Roscommon; and if he will make a statement on the matter”

Dear Deputy

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 the following outlines the position.

The services available under the DTSS include examination, cleaning, restorations (2 without prior approval). Extractions, prosthetic's (dentures) and root canal treatments on anterior teeth, additional items can be approved on provision of clinical necessity for cases along with approval forms.

Dental Services for Medical Card holders are being delivered by 5 contractors in Co Roscommon. While all are advising that they are currently at capacity some new medical card Patients have been seen. Emergency cases have been facilitated in the HSE/ local Health Centers however this service is a pediatric service and can facilitate minimal adult medical card holders on this emergency basis. There are 1.5 million adults eligible for medical cards and currently less than 600 Dentists across the entire country operating the scheme, leaving those who are contractors at capacity currently. An overhaul of the DTSS scheme is required in order to facilitate all medical card holding patients satisfactorily.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours sincerely

M Warde

Mary Warde
Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon