



Oifig an Príomhoifigeach  
Eagraíocht Cúram Sláinte Pobail Lár Tire,  
An Lú, An Mhí

Oifig na bPríomhoifigeach, An Chéad Urlár,  
Coimhleasc Naomh Bríd, Bóthar Ceanannais  
Bhaile Átha Fhirdia, Co Lú, A92 DRN0

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27th September 2023

Deputy Darren O'Rourke,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ – 39971/23- To ask the Minister for Health, the number of children waiting for braces after a public orthodontist recommended them for braces under the PRSI system; and the average waiting time for CHO8**

Dear Deputy O'Rourke,

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;

Persons are prioritised for Orthodontic services based on their clinical need.

Persons in the Grade/Category 5 are deemed to have high clinical need, the most severe of all the grades. These include badly aligned teeth, jaw disorders, overcrowded teeth, large numbers of gaps between the teeth and facial abnormalities, e.g. cleft palate.

Persons in the Grade/Category 4 are not deemed to have the highest clinical need. These include missing teeth, severe overbites/under bites and overcrowding

Below are the Waiting List breakdown for each Category per clinic location in CHO8.

Clinic Location	Category	Numbers Waiting	Average Waiting Time
Louth PCC/Monaghan CH01	Cat 5	272	4/5 years
	Cat 4	94	4 years
Navan PCC/Cavan CH01	Cat 5	333	4/5 years
	Cat 4	147	2 years
Midlands PCC	Cat 5	172	29 Weeks
	Cat 4	111	19 Weeks



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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'A Kennedy'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Kennedy  
Acting Chief Officer  
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation