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**02 October 2023**

**Deputy Thomas Pringle  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 40413/23: To ask the Minister for Health the current waiting times for orthodontic assessments and for orthodontic treatment in Donegal and in every other county in Ireland, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Pringle,

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.

Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. The most complex conditions and malocclusions include cleft lip and palate, hypodontia (several permanent teeth fail to develop) and cases where orthognathic surgery is indicated. A Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment.

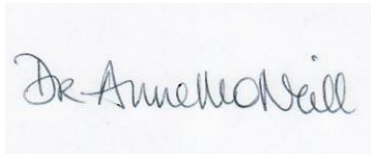
Access to HSE Orthodontics is through a referral process that starts in the HSE Dental Service, usually when the child is in 6th Class. When a child is identified as having a treatment need that may qualify through the Modified IOTN system, then s/he will be referred for an Orthodontic Assessment with the HSE's Regional Orthodontic Department. If the treatment need meets the criteria under the Modified IOTN, the child will then be placed on a waiting list for treatment. There are a number of categories within the system, and these are used to prioritise care. These waiting lists (orthodontic assessment list, orthodontic treatment list) are managed by the HSE's Regional Orthodontic Departments.

Appendix 1 details KPI data for the HSE Orthodontic Service for the number of orthodontic patients waiting for an assessment, following a referral, and the number of orthodontic patients (grade 4 and grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment at end Q2 2023.

Data is provided by Regional Orthodontic Unit and not by County as requested. The North West Regional Orthodontic Unit is highlighted in the table below and includes the waiting lists for County Donegal.

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

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr Anne M O'Neill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

**Dr Anne M O'Neill,**  
**HSE AND, National Oral Health Lead - Operations**

**Appendix 1: KPI Data Orthodontic Service 2023 end of Q2 (June 2023)**

<b>No.of orthodontic patients waiting assessment following a referral</b>						
		<b>1-6 mths</b>	<b>7-12 mths</b>	<b>13-24 mths</b>	<b>&gt;2 years</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>DML</b>	<b>Former East Coast (Loughlinstown)*</b>	128	8	9	0	145
<b>DML</b>	<b>Former South West (St James's)*</b>	691	384	235	22	1332
<b>DML</b>	<b>Midlands</b>	250	10	9	4	273
<b>DNE</b>	<b>DNE</b>	313	1	5	0	319
<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>South</b>	859	684	1027	373	2943
<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>South East</b>	404	299	315	16	1034
<b>WEST</b>	<b>Mid Western</b>	93	15	0	0	108
<b>WEST</b>	<b>North West*</b>	308	219	268	410	1205
<b>WEST</b>	<b>Western</b>	553	20	7	0	580
<b>Totals</b>		3599	1640	1875	825	7939

**Table 1 No. of orthodontic patients waiting assessment following a referral**

No. of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2023							
<i>Wait band</i>	<i>1-6 mths</i>	<i>7-12 mths</i>	<i>13-24 mths</i>	<i>25-36 mths</i>	<i>37-48mths</i>	<i>Over 48 mths</i>	<i>Totals</i>
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
<b>WEST North West*</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>208</b>
WEST Western	167	121	320	29	26	0	663
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1474</b>	<b>6607</b>

No. of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment 2023							
<i>Wait band</i>	<i>1-6 mths</i>	<i>7-12 mths</i>	<i>13-24 mths</i>	<i>25-36 mths</i>	<i>37-48mths</i>	<i>Over 48 mths</i>	<i>Totals</i>
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
<b>WEST North West*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>34</b>
WEST Western	113	109	297	5	23		547
<b>Totals</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>1115</b>	<b>3987</b>

Table 2: No. of orthodontic patients waiting to commence treatment following assessment