



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
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**05 October 2023**

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

**40836/23: To ask the Minister for Health his plans to recruit more dentists into the HSE public dental service; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

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 response.

The HSE National Oral Health Office is working with the HSE National HR Recruit Reform and Resourcing programme mapping oral health challenges and looking at solutions to resource them.

Where vacancies exist, each CHO area runs recruitment initiatives and competitions for dentists, dental nurses and dental hygienists to fill vacancies, with panels created from the recruitment competitions. Where service deficits exist every effort is made to redirect clinical teams to address those areas with the greatest needs.

The HSE's 2023 National Service Plan aims to continue to develop services and implement waiting list initiatives across a range of dental and orthodontic services and maximise activity across these services to manage waiting lists and waiting times. Oral healthcare services for children and adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy). The initiation of the implementation of the policy is included in priorities and funding from budget 2023.

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**