



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
Teil: 061 492068  
E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)  
National Oral Health Office  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick  
Tel: 061 492068  
Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

**10 May 2024**

**Deputy Colm Burke  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 14869/24: To ask the Minister for Health if he will grant an immediate allocation of €7 million to hire 76 HSE wholetime equivalent (WTE) dentists to bring service levels back to 2007 levels, thereby cutting waiting lists for service and treatments in the public system that is, the children's school screening programme (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Burke,

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 Dental Service targets children in key school years (2nd, 4th and 6th classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted. 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. 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.

The HSE's 2024 National Service Plan continues to support the development of 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.

The HSE Community Dental Service is impacted by difficulties in recruiting new staff- which is experienced across a range of health services, both private and public. The HSE National Oral Health Office works with the HSE National HR, Recruitment Reform and Resourcing Programme on identifying any resourcing challenges that may be experienced by the dental and oral health professions. The National Oral Health Policy also contains a range of strategic workforce planning actions to increase workforce capacity, in support of improving patient access to care.



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
Teil: 061 492068

E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)  
National Oral Health Office

Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick  
Tel: 061 492068

Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

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 cursive script that reads "Dr Anne O'Neill".

**Anne O'Neill**  
**Assistant National Director, Oral Health**