



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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**Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 15441/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of each quarter for each year 2019-2024, broken down by standard waiting times, by area, in tabular form.

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 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. Access to treatment with the HSE Orthodontic Service is limited to those children with the most severe and complex orthodontic treatment needs. The Modified Index of Treatment Needs (Modified IOTN) system is used in all regions to determine if a child will be accepted for treatment, children whose treatment need is assessed as being in Grade 4 or Grade 5 of the Index are offered treatment with the HSE.

The attached Excel WorkBooks detail KPI data for the Dental and Orthodontic Service (2019 to 2024). The reported metric for the Dental Service is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment.

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

Yours Sincerely,

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