



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
 Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
 An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
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10 May 2024

Deputy David Cullinane  
 Dáil Eireann  
 Leinster House  
 Kildare Street  
 Dublin 2

**PQ 15828/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of active DTSS contract holders in HSE Dublin and the Midlands, 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.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE. The DTSS is a “choice of dentist” scheme which does not require the patient to register with a particular dentist and enables medical card holders to attend any DTSS contractor directly without recourse to the HSE. The number of dentists contracted to the DTSS and the number of dentists who submitted claims (March 2024) in the relevant LHO areas is detailed in the table below.

HSE Area	LHO 2 Dublin South East	LHO 3 Dublin South City	LHO 4 Dublin South West	LHO 5 Dublin West	LHO 8 Laois/Offaly	LHO 9 Longford/ Westmeath	LHO 10 North West Dublin	LHO 11 Dublin North Central	LHO 12 North Dublin	LHO 14 Louth	LHO 15 Meath
Number of Private Dentists	5	26	29	10	10	32	25	27	23	18	14
Number of Private Dentists who Submitted Claims	3	17	23	10	10	27	22	18	8	15	10

A process to update the contract numbers was undertaken in June 2023. The HSE corresponded with contract holders requesting they review their availability for provision of care for medical card holders. Several contractors contacted the service to advise that while they remain active on the scheme, they have no availability within the practice for new patients- either private or DTSS.



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The number of dentists claiming per month has remained relatively stable. Availability of appointments fluctuates according to the daily capacity of the practices- it is not possible to indicate which may have available appointments on any given day.

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".

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