



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

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

PQ 7269/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists at the end of January of 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 Health Services Executive delivers dental services to children under the age of 16, provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. These services are delivered with a strong preventive ethos in order to minimise the incidence of dental disease in vulnerable populations. In particular this preventive approach involves the delivery of personalised oral health promotion for children and people with special care needs.

Children are seen at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

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. Where service deficits are identified locally, additional resources where available can be redirected to address those needs.

The extent of the backlog in targeted services and delays in providing preventive interventions and treatment for patients are concerns for the HSE, with services working to

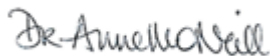
reduce the backlog in treatment appointments. Delays in assessments may reduce opportunities for preventive measures as disease is not identified early.

I wish to advise that the system does not hold data in the manner requested. Appendix 1 details KPI data for the Dental Service (Jan 2019 to Jan 2024). The reported metric is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. Each year, a new cohort of children enters the target classes. In 2023, 104,488 were seen by Dental Services.

Appendix 2 details KPI data for the Orthodontic Service (end Q4 2019 to end Q4 2023). Orthodontic KPI data is reported on a quarterly basis.

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



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Appendix 1: No. of new Oral Health patients in target groups (1st/2nd, 4th and 6th class) attending for scheduled assessment (Jan 2019 – Jan 2024)

LHO	Jan-19	Jan-20	Jan-21	Jan-22	Jan-23	Jan-24
	14793	14249	4154	7687	9014	10112
Cavan Monaghan	729	648	259	324	496	387.0
Donegal	824	639	212	567	577	534.0
Sligo Leitrim	391	459	408	277	164	410.0
Total	1944	1746	879	1168	1237	1,331.0
Galway	463	215	0	85	0	33.0
Mayo	366	327	110	176	214	246.0
Roscommon	466	381	98	229	346	338.0
Total	1295	923	208	490	560	617.0
Clare	374	392	4	171	148	231.0
Limerick	325	250	14	71	171	251.0
North Tipperary East Limerick	530	371	30	168	163	185.0
Total	1229	1013	48	410	482	667.0
Kerry	421	319	12	179	217	297.0
North Cork	426	346	33	244	329	345.0
North Lee	522	501	30	387	410	507.0
South Lee	556	520	68	257	306	426.0

West Cork	214	127	1	140	134	139.0
Total	2139	1813	144	1207	1396	1,714.0
Carlow Kilkenny	335	405	202	249	225	225.0
South Tipperary	381	639	234	259	329	397.0
Waterford	417	366	217	206	309	228.0
Wexford	315	311	95	199	151	170.0
Total	1448	1721	748	913	1014	1,020.0
Dun Laoghaire/ Dublin South East/Wicklow	686	1,075	382	535	449	498.0
Total	686	1075	382	535	449	498.0
Dublin South City	249	279	80	315	319	357.0
Dublin South West	454	550	179	280	316	272.0
Dublin West	569	466	102	372	525	399.0
Kildare West Wicklow	967	1,790	8	168	501	453.0
Total	2239	3085	369	1135	1661	1,481.0
Laois Offaly	323	293	122	182	148	106.0
Longford Westmeath	357	331	157	196	226	181.0
Louth	620	226	115	151	124	443.0
Meath	563	208	26	279	242	373.0
Total	1863	1058	420	808	740	1,103.0
Dublin North	970	710	179	220	432	558.0
Dublin North Central	326	420	249	217	366	439.0
Dublin North West	654	685	528	584	677	684.0
Total	1950	1815	956	1021	1475	1,681.0

Appendix 2: Orthodontic KPI Data

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals		962	1173	2131	1580	986	438	7270
No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
DML		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals		1108	1334	2376	2520	1870	1674	10882

Q4 2019

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals		252	772	2682	1915	1247	961	7829
No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals		119	581	1813	1568	1577	2303	7961

Q4 2020

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
		1-6 mths	7-12mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals		709	311	738	1492	1029	869	5148
No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment								
Totals		479	213	660	1788	1135	1260	5535

Q4 2021

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment							
	1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals	898	870	1155	732	1301	1280	6236
No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment							
Totals	587	680	907	709	1141	838	4862

Q4 2022

No.of orthodontic patients (grade 5) waiting to commence treatment following assessment							
	1-6 mths	7-12 mths	13-24 mths	25-36 mths	37-48mths	Over 48 mths	Totals
Totals	1221	1141	1713	1174	528	1481	7258
No.of orthodontic patients (grade 4) waiting to commence treatment following assessment							
Totals	759	616	860	567	246	826	3874

Q4 2023