



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
 Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
 An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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 National Oral Health Office
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08 August 2024

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 30337/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists who submitted DTSS claims and the total number of claims in each quarter of 2022 to 2024, 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 who submitted DTSS claims and the total number of treatments claimed for in each quarter of 2022 to 2024 is detailed in the table below.

	Quarter 1 (March data)		Quarter 2 (June data)		Quarter 3 (Sept data)		Quarter 4 (Dec data)	
	No. of Dentists who submitted claims	Total number of treatments	No. of Dentists who submitted claims	Total number of treatments	No. of Dentists who submitted claims	Total number of treatments	No. of Dentists who submitted claims	Total number of treatments
2022	675	180,839	645	377,071	635	590,787	634	815,346
2023	628	241,992	634	502,433	630	733,886	630	970,210
2024	626	266,918	635	552,204	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

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



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they remain active on the scheme, they have no availability within the practice for new patients- either private or DTSS.

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".

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health