



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068
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National Oral Health Office
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
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10 July 2024

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 27116/24: To ask the Minister for Health if the €5 million funding announced in Budget 2023 to support the HSE public dental services in addressing backlogs in children's and special care services has been issued; to provide an update on the work undertaken by his Department to reduce the waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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.

A single allocation of €5 million was made in Budget 2023 to support the HSE to provide care to its eligible child and adult populations, including addressing backlogs in the targeted primary school class programme and improving access to emergency treatment for medical card holders.

As the allocation was on a once-off basis, it did not support the employment of additional staff to the service and is not held for use within the service in 2024.

The HSE outlined project initiatives to the Department of Health all of which met the requirements of the budgetary initiative. A number of extra dental sessions were conducted in HSE clinics via this funding.

Separate to the €5 million budgetary initiative significant additional funding was provided to the National Oral Health Office to fund orthodontic patients waiting for extended periods of time. Patients in the IOTN 4 category were identified for contracted care. In 2023 over 2,000 patients were removed from the HSE's Grade 4 orthodontic treatment waiting list through this funding. In addition, a new orthognathic (jaw) surgery waiting list initiative commenced in September 2023. These are complex surgeries which require a lengthy hospital stay. This year, 20 patients have received surgery to-date and 156 patients have been removed from the Grade 4 waiting list. Having made significant improvements on Grade 4 waiting lists in most areas, work has commenced on a framework agreement for Grade 5 patients with specific clinical requirements suitable for contracted care.



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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