



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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19 March 2024

**Deputy Carol Nolan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 10284/24: To ask the Minister for Health how much of the €5 million investment from Budget 2023 to target backlogs in dental services for children and adult medical card holders has been spent in the way that it was intended; if the remainder of this money is still ringfenced to target dental waiting lists; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

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**