



19 March 2024

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

PQ 10288/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of medical card patients seen by dentists on the DTSS for each year from 2012 to date inclusive, in tabular form; 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.

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 medical card patients seen by dentists on the DTSS for each year from 2012 to date inclusive is detailed in the table below.

Year	No. of Persons treated
2012	394,399
2013	435,292
2014	436,433
2015	420,459
2016	416,662
2017	413,111
2018	389,791
2019	374,408
2020	282,796
2021	264,395
2022	256,768
2023	283,505
Feb 2024	65,042



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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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