



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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19 March 2024

Deputy Carol Nolan
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 10291/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of WTE dentists contracted to the school dental screening service for the years 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.

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 number of whole time equivalent (WTE) dental surgeons who are employed by the HSE (2012-2024) is detailed in the attached Excel WorkSheet.

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

