



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
Teil: 061 492068  
E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)  
National Oral Health Office  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick  
Tel: 061 492068  
Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

19 March 2024

Deputy David Cullinane  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 10785/24: To ask the Minister for Health the spend on 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 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.

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 expenditure for the HSE Community Dental Service is not held separately for the children and special care services. The table below provides the requested data detailed for years 2019 to 2023.

Full Year Dental Expenditure Summary	2019 €'000	2020 €'000	2021 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000
Expenditure Community Dental Service 2023	56,499	53,900	56,001	59,367	62,558



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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 black ink that reads "Dr Anne O'Neill".

**Anne O'Neill**  
**Assistant National Director, Oral Health**