



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

21 May 2024

**Deputy Imelda Munster
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 20879/24: To ask the Minister for Health for an update on the situation around the dental treatment services scheme, including a list in tabular form, of the number of dentists working under the scheme in each county in the State; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Munster,

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 dentists contracted to the DTSS by LHO area is detailed in table 1 below.

A process to update the contract numbers was undertaken in June 2023. The HSE corresponded with contract holders requesting they review their availability for provision of care for medical card holders. Several contractors contacted the service to advise that while they remain active on the scheme, they have no availability within the practice for new patients- either private or DTSS.

The HSE's 2024 National Service Plan aims to continue to develop services and implement waiting list initiatives across a range of dental and orthodontic services and maximise activity across these services to manage waiting lists and waiting times.

The service plan supports the implementation of the Government's National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte. The implementation of the National Oral Health Policy will require consultation and collaboration with many stakeholders including the Irish Dental Association to realise the development of oral healthcare packages across the life course. The HSE acknowledges the challenges associated with DTSS currently and the reduced number of dentists participating in same.



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
National Oral Health Office

Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068

Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anne O'Neill

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068

E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie
National Oral Health Office

Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068

Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

Table 1: No. of DTSS Contractors	
HSE Area	May-24
LHO 1 Dunlaoghaire	12
LHO 2 Dublin South East	5
LHO 3 Dublin South City	26
LHO 4 Dublin South West	28
LHO 5 Dublin West	9
LHO 6 Kildare/West Wicklow	27
LHO 7 Wicklow	18
LHO 8 Laois/Offaly	11
LHO 9 Longford/ Westmeath	32
LHO 10 North West Dublin	25
LHO 11 Dublin North Central	30
LHO 12 North Dublin	17
LHO 13 Cavan/ Monaghan	54
LHO 14 Louth	18
LHO 15 Meath	14
LHO 16 Galway	56
LHO 17 Mayo	22
LHO 18 Roscommon	6
LHO 19 Donegal	42
LHO 20 Sligo/ Leitrim	10
LHO 21 Clare	12
LHO 22 North Tipp/East Limerick	19
LHO 23 Limerick	47
LHO 24 Cork-South Lee	56
LHO 25 Cork North Lee	78
LHO 26 West Cork	19
LHO 27 Kerry	18
LHO 28 North Cork	27
LHO 29 Carlow/ Kilkenny	18



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
National Oral Health Office

Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068

Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

LHO 30 Waterford	18
LHO 31 South Tipperary	21
LHO 32 Wexford	13
National Total *	808