

30th May, 2024

Mr. Michael Healy-Rae, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 22511/24.

“To ask the Minister for Health when students will be called for an appointment with the school dentist (details supplied); and if he will make a statement on the matter”.

Details supplied: Minister when is it expected that 4th, 5th & 6th class students in Gneeveguilla National School , Co Kerry will get called to the school dentists? Will they be gone into secondary school by the time they will get called?

Dear Deputy Healy-Rae,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, adults and children with special care needs and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age, and the special care needs patient cohort, are treated in HSE dental clinics. Adult medical card holders are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to operate the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

The HSE Dental Service in Co. Kerry experienced significant service delays due to the necessary redeployment of staff into COVID testing and vaccination during the initial phase of the pandemic, resulting in significant delays in the school screening programme. Therefore, this has required a prioritisation of services and the service is currently focusing on 6th class in primary schools.

Children from the 2022/2023 6th Class in Gneeveguilla National School were called to the HSE Dental Services in February 2024, with children in the 6th class of 2023/2024 class expected to be seen over summer. It is hoped that the service will return to calling two target classes (2nd and 6th class in primary schools) in the 2024/2025 school class year.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Priscilla Lynch
Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare