



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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**Deputy Paul Lawless
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 15884/25 To ask the Minister for Health to outline the details of the school dental programme; the number of routine dental checks provided; the timeline for checks and treatments; and the range of treatments offered under the programme

Dear Deputy Lawless,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation, 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.

The school dental service provides examination and any necessary preventive and restorative treatment noted at examination. The programme commences with 6th class and follows with 2nd and 4th - depending on available resources. Following dental examination (including any necessary X-rays), patients are provided with a preventive and restorative treatment plan designed to manage any dental disease diagnosed and provide preventive treatment and advice to maintain oral health (fillings, fissure sealants, tooth cleaning, extraction if necessary etc.). Each patient is also reviewed for dental development and orthodontic problems. Those who may meet the clinical criteria for HSE orthodontic treatment are referred to the Orthodontic Service for assessment under the HSE National Orthodontic Assessment Guidelines. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma for any child under age 16.

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**