



Office of the Head of Primary Care
Services
Community Health Organisation
Midlands Louth Meath

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2nd May 2025

Deputy Erin McGreehan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 16127/25 - To ask the Minister for Health for an update on what is being done to ensure that current patients at HSE Louth Community Care, Dundalk, County Louth continue to receive treatment in the absence of orthodontics at this Dundalk clinic – Erin McGreehan

Dear Deputy McGreehan

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. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

At this time, the Dundalk Orthodontic Department is under resourced with a vacant Consultant Orthodontist post and two vacant Specialist Orthodontist posts. We are actively pursuing recruitment for these posts, and also trying to fill them in the meantime with agency. We are hopeful that a Locum Consultant Orthodontist will be assigned to the unit in the near future. On a monthly basis, we have a Specialist Orthodontist providing a clinic.

The current staff in the Orthodontic Service in Dundalk consists of: 2.0 wte Dental Nurses, 0.8 wte Dental Hygienist and 0.8 wte Clerical Officer.

We are currently validating our waiting lists ensuring that individuals who wish to stay on the list do so, while also removing those who have already undergone treatment elsewhere, resulting in a real-time waiting list. Patients who remain on our list will be scheduled for an appointment as soon as we have an Orthodontist in place.

The Clinic is continuing to arrange appointments with patients and the oral hygienist. The policy in the department is that any patient in pain and requiring emergency treatment is seen as soon as possible in the Orthodontic Department Navan.



I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation