



FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt
HSE West and North West



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim

Cúram Sláinte Phobail, Iarthar, Ceanncheathrú N. Muire,
Caisleán an Bharraigh, Co. Mhaigh Eo, F23 HP58.

T: (094) 90 42019 / (094) 90 42033

Head of Primary Care Services

Community Healthcare West, St. Mary's Headquarters,
Castlebar, County Mayo, F23 HP58

Tel: (094) 90 42019 / (094) 90 42033

12th May 2025

Ms Keira Keogh, TD
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

RE: PQ ref 18538/25

To ask the Minister for Health when the list of dentists for County Mayo will be updated in respect of medical card holders; if she is aware of the issue for medical card holders in sourcing dentists; what steps are being taken by the HSE to source more dentists for medical card holders; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Keogh

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Representation which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Thank you for your enquiry.

The list of DTSS contractors is updated upon the addition or deletion of a contractor. Upon resignation from the scheme, a contractor is obliged to give 3 months notice in writing to the PCRS and PDS.

Difficulty sourcing DTSS contractors is a National issue, and the demand to see all eligible patients far outweighs the capacity in the system, with many waiting long periods to access treatment under the scheme. This is regrettable. The online approval system indicates that contractors are seeing medical card patients, and are doing what they can to facilitate eligible patients.

Following approval by the Minister, the HSE introduced a package of interim measures in May 2022 to support the scheme, which resulted in fee increases and the expansion of treatments available i.e. reintroduction of Scale and Polish. There were significant fee increases of up to 60% in some treatment items, including restorations, routine extractions and dentures. These measures are intended to help address the immediate problem of access to services for medical card holders.

The HSE's expenditure on the DTSS rose from €39,595,484 in 2021 to €49,437,639 in 2022 and to €64,792,282 in 2023. Last year in 2024 the expenditure was €69,317,246.

A review of the DTSS will be carried out as part of the phased implementation of the National Oral Health Policy, Smile agus Sláinte. This root-and branch review, in line with the National Oral Health Policy will cover all aspects of the scheme, including fees and allocated budget.

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but should you have any further queries please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Seamus Beirne
Head of Primary Care Services
Galway, Mayo & Roscommon