



FSS an Iarthair agus an Iarthuaiscirt
HSE West and North West



Ceannasaí na Seirbhísí Bunchúraim

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20th May 2025

Mr Martin Daly, TD
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

RE: PQ18543/25

To ask the Minister for Health what plans are in place to improve access to dental services under the medical card scheme in the Roscommon-Galway constituency.

Dear Deputy Daly

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.

The dental service in Galway is aware of the difficulties that exist for medical card holders in accessing dental care in Galway under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS). The numbers of dental contractors operating the DTSS for medical card holders has decreased and work is needed at a HSE National level to maintain the current dental contractors and encourage new dental contractors into the scheme. Difficulties accessing dental care and treatment are also experienced by private patients.

Until there is an increase in capacity from dental contractors, accessing Dentists in Galway and in the region will continue to be a challenge. A patient does have the option to access dental service in another county if they wish to pursue this. The dental service in Galway actively updates the list of operating dentists under the scheme with those that are accepting new patients however this can change on a daily basis. This list is provided to medical card holders as requested.

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