



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068
E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie
National Oral Health Office
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068
Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

13 May 2025

Deputy Mairéad Farrell
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 18803/25:

To ask the Minister for Health if she will provide an update on the dental treatment services scheme; the current number of dentists registered in the scheme and the number of dentists registered in the scheme in April 2024, by county, in tabular form; the work her Department is doing to increase the number of dentists who are not only registered in the scheme but willing to take on new patients; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Farrell,

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

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE. The DTSS is a “choice of dentist” scheme for patients, which does not require the patient to register with a particular dentist and enables medical card holders to attend any DTSS contractor directly without recourse to the HSE. Dentists choose to join the DTSS depending on their own clinical and business arrangements. As there are no obligations on dentists to join the scheme, this limits the options to recruit additional dentists to the scheme.

The number of dentists on the dental treatment services scheme at the end Q1 2024 and April 2025 is detailed in the attached Excel Sheet.

The number of dentists claiming per month has remained relatively stable. As all dental practices are increasingly busy, the HSE is aware that DTSS contractors may have limited capacity to take on new patients. Availability of appointments fluctuates according to the daily capacity of the practices, with additional capacity limited to the number of clinicians and clinical hours worked within the practice.

Oral healthcare services for adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy) – the implementation of which is included in priorities and funding from budget 2025.



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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