



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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29 May 2025

Deputy Barry Ward
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

21167/25: To ask the Minister for Health the actions she is taking to ensure that adequate dental facilities are available for IPAS residents while not removing existing services from any community; and if she will make a statement on the matter. -Barry Ward

Dear Deputy Ward,

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 HSE funds separate dental programmes for children and adults. The children's programme includes emergency dental treatment for children between 0-16 years of age and a targeted school dental programme with preventative and restorative treatment for conditions noted at examination. The adult programme is made available to those who have medical cards and is known as the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

The International Protection Accommodation System (IPAS) is the state agency that looks after the direct provision system and is provided as part of Ireland's obligations to refugees and those seeking international protection. It includes access to healthcare and supports application for medical cards. The HSE funded dental programmes are made available to anyone with eligibility and are resource dependent. While applications for medical cards are being processed, the HSE may directly provide emergency dental treatment as part of healthcare to IPAS residents.

An additional 15 WTE have been allocated to oral health services as part of the National Service Plan to increase the staff available in the HSE Community Dental Service.

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