

12th February 2025.

Mr. Eoghan Kenny., T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 2838/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists based in Cork north central that have left the dental treatment service scheme since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

PQ ref 2839/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists based in Cork north central that have joined the dental treatment service scheme since 2020; and if he will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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

The HSE Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, adults and children with special care needs and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age, and the special care needs patient cohort, are treated in HSE dental clinics. Adult medical card holders are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to operate the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

While a substantial numbers of private dentists have left the medical card dental scheme, there is a significant number of dentists still operating the scheme in North Lee catchment area. Particular dentists may operate a waiting list for medical card holders.

Below is a table of the number of dentists who joined or left the DTSS Scheme from 2020 to 2024, in the North Lee catchment area. The high figure that left in 2023 was due to a clean-up by PCRS of inactive panel numbers on their system.

	Joined	Left
2020	5	7
2021	6	4
2022	4	14
2023	3	29 (PCRS clean-up of inactive panel numbers)
2024	7	12

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
Cork Kerry Community Healthcare