



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

Deputy Eoghan Kenny
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 1916/25: To ask the Minister for Health the actions her Department is taking to recruit more dentists to join the dental treatment service scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kenny,

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.

The provision of dental care to adult medical card holders (over 16 years) is enabled through the DTSS (Dental Treatment Services Scheme). The scheme is provided by General Dentists in their own practices who hold a DTSS contract with the HSE. There is no obligation on dentists to join the scheme, which limits the options to recruit additional dentists to the scheme. Furthermore, as dental practices are increasingly busy, DTSS contractors may have limited capacity to take on new patients.

The number of contract holders has stabilised at approximately 800 contracts, but some geographical areas still experience difficulties.

A range of measures were put in place on 1 May 2022 within the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) for adult medical card holders to introduce and reintroduce elements of preventative care and increase the fees paid to dental contractors for most treatment items by 40-60%. 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 National Service Plan priorities and funding.

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