



4th March 2025

Deputy William Aird
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re PQ 8236/25

To ask the Minister for Health to report on the waiting list for dental appointments for children in Laois; the measures she is introducing to lower waiting times; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Aird

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

The Public Dental Service CHO8 continues to provide a targeted service in line with priorities set out by the National Oral Health Office (NOHO). The ability of the service to meet these priorities is based on available resources.

Historically children were targeted for examination and full course of treatment in 2nd class, 4th class and 6th class however given available resources targeting has been limited to 6th class only.

Please see below for waiting list for children 6th class National Schools Co Laois.

School year as of February 2025	Co Laois
2020/21	953
2021/22	1520
2022/23	1504
2023/24	1440
2024/25	1229
Total	6646



To reduce these waiting list numbers two extra evening sessions are currently held each week in Portlaoise.

There is currently 1.0 WTE 2024 vacancy for a General Dental Surgeon in Co Laois. We are waiting for approval for recruitment of this post and 1.0 WTE General Dental Surgeon post (to be allocated to the Laois area through the National Oral Health Office).

I trust the above is in order but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation