



Sarah McAleer,
Acting Head of Service,
Cúram Príomhúil
FSS an Iardheiscirt

Áras na Ceachan,
Páirc Ghnó agus Teicneolaíochta,
Bóthar na Modh Feirme,
Corcaigh. T12 XHT4

Sarah McAleer,
Acting Head of Service,
Primary Care
HSE South West

Caha House,
Business and Technology Park,
Model Farm Road,
Cork. T12 XHT4

southwest.hse.ie
E: Sarah.McAleer@hse.ie

11th July, 2025

Mr. Pat Buckley, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 35695/25

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of dental practices that are currently accepting new medical card patients in the East Cork Constituency as of now, and at this same point in 2022, 2023 and 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Buckley,

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.

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

Below is a table which outlines number of dentists with assigned panel number in the DTSS scheme from 2022 to 2025. The number of patients accepted by dentists with assigned panel numbers fluctuates on an ongoing basis. Private dental practitioners contracted under the scheme do not provide live data to the HSE which would assist in identifying where medical card patients can be accepted at any given time.

Area	Number of Dentists with assigned panel numbers in the DTSS scheme May 2022	Number of Dentists with assigned panel numbers in the DTSS scheme May 2023	Number of Dentists with assigned panel numbers in the DTSS scheme May 2024	Number of Dentists with assigned panel numbers in the DTSS scheme May 2025
North Lee	111	106	81	81

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

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McAleer
Acting Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
HSE South West