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9th July, 2025

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 36932/25.

"To ask the Minister for Health the number of children seen under the public dentistry service for routine checks in Cork, in each of the past five years".

Dear Deputy Gould,

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).

The service operates a school screening program for children in target classes and dental care is also provided to adults and children with special care needs, who are given annual recall appointments.

Data is collected using the patient management system SOEL. The recorded number of patients given annual check-up appointments on SOEL includes both children in target classes and special care needs patients on annual recall.

The data recorded for routine check-up appointments is as follows:

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
6500*	4000*	12095	13301	13308

*Data incomplete in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID as most of the dental staff were re-assigned to undertake COVID screening.

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

Yours sincerely,

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

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