



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

Deputy John Paul O'Shea
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 38383/25:

To ask the Minister for Health for an updated list of dentists who participate in the treatment benefit scheme for the Cork-Kerry-Limerick area; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy O'Shea,

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.

It is noted that the Parliamentary Question refers to the **Dental Treatment Benefit Scheme**. The Department of Social Protection funds the scheme called the Dental Treatment Benefit Scheme (DTBS). Eligibility is based on Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contributions. A person's dentist can check if they qualify for treatment under this scheme.

The information below relates to the **Dental Treatment Services Scheme**. Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE. The DTSS is a "choice of dentist" scheme which does not require the patient to register with a particular dentist and enables medical card holders to attend any DTSS contractor directly without recourse to the HSE. The number of dentists on the dental treatment services scheme for local health office areas Cork Kerry Limerick as at June 2025 is detailed in the table below. Please note that LHO 22 also include contractors in North Tipperary.

| | LHO 22 North Tipp/East Limerick | LHO 23 Limerick | LHO 24 Cork- South Lee | LHO 25 Cork North Lee | LHO 26 West Cork | LHO 27 Kerry | LHO 28 North Cork |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| No of DTSS Contractors | 21 | 53 | 59 | 78 | 21 | 18 | 27 |

The number of dentists claiming per month has remained relatively stable. As dental practices are increasingly busy, DTSS contractors may have limited capacity to take on new patients. Availability of appointments fluctuates according to the daily capacity of the practices.



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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