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15th July 2025

Deputy Alan Kelly
1 Summerhill, Nenagh
Co. Tipperary

Re: PQ 39155/25 - "To ask the Minister for Health the paediatric dental waiting list in Nenagh Hospital, by year 2020 to 1st July 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Kelly,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in regard to your parliamentary question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The Primary Care Dental Service manages the waiting lists for patients who have been referred by the service for routine dental treatment to be carried out under General Anaesthetic (Dental GA). Primary Care (Community) Dental Service has limited access to Dental GA sessions in University Hospital Limerick (UHL) and Nenagh Hospital.

The Community Dental Service holds two extraction lists for the HSE Mid West area (Clare, Limerick & Nth. Tipperary):

- children aged four and under – all children aged four and under have to be treated at UHL as there needs to be access to a Paediatric Department onsite in case of an emergency;
- children/patients (incl. some adults with additional needs) over the age of four.

Therefore, any child aged four and over within the HSE Mid West area (Clare, Limerick and Nth. Tipperary) could potentially be offered an appointment at Nenagh Hospital.

The Theatre Access Dept. at UL Hospital notifies the Dental Service one month in advance of the proposed dates to be allocated for Dental GA sessions. The Principal Dental Surgeon advised that the Dental Service have been allocated six Dental GA sessions at Nenagh Hospital throughout July. The service is limited to seven beds for a full day session, therefore, if all six sessions go ahead as planned, the service would hope to treat 42 patients from their waiting list this month.




The Principal Dental Surgeon has provided the following information in respect of the number of children (aged four and over) from the HSE Mid West area (Clare, Limerick & Nth. Tipperary) who could potentially be offered an appointment for a Dental GA Nenagh Hospital:

Year	No. of children on the waiting list for a Dental GA who could potentially be offered a Dental GA appointment at Nenagh Hospital
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	21
2024	425
@ 01/07/2025	294
Total	740

I trust the above information addresses the issues raised in your representation.

Yours sincerely,



Carmel McLaughlin
General Manager
Primary Care