



Office of the Head of Primary Care  
Services  
Community Health Organisation  
Midlands Louth Meath

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3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Deputy John Clendennen  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

**Re: PQ 39692/25**

**To ask the Minister for Health the average age of a child and their school class when they receive their first dental examination and screening through the school dental scheme in Offaly; how this compares to the national average age; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Clendennen,

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.

As of July 2025, the average age of a child when they receive their first dental examination and screening through the school dental scheme in Co. Offaly is between 15-16 years old. This means the child who was in 6th class in 2021/2022 and has now completed 3rd year commencing Transition year this September in secondary school.

There is no available information regarding national data however in the North East the average age of a child when they receive their first dental examination and screening through the school dental scheme is 13-14 years old and in first/second year of secondary school.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.



Yours sincerely,

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