



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
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Deputy Thomas Gould
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 41468/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of GMS funded dentist appointments in Cork in each of the years 2019 to 2024, and to date in 2025, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Gould,

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.

The HSE makes dental services available to adults with full eligibility through the Dental Treatment Services Scheme, which enables medical card holders to attend contracted dentists- the scheme has a list of treatment items which are funded through the scheme.

The DTSS is a “choice of dentist” scheme for patients, 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. Dentists choose to join the DTSS depending on their own clinical and business arrangements. As there are no obligations on dentists to join the scheme, this limits the options to recruit additional dentists to the scheme.

The number of dentists claiming per month has remained relatively stable. As all dental practices are increasingly busy, the HSE is aware that DTSS contractors may have limited capacity to take on new patients. Availability of appointments fluctuates according to the daily capacity of the practices, with additional capacity limited to the number of clinicians and clinical hours worked within the practice.

The data on the number of GMS funded dentist appointments in Cork is not available as requested. However, the below tables provide the number of unique patients treated and the total number of treatments for the relevant Local Health Office areas in Cork for each of the years 2019-2024 and to date 2025.

	LHO 24 Cork-South Lee	LHO 25 Cork North Lee	LHO 26 West Cork	LHO 28 North Cork
2019	14,986	18,540	5,095	8,120
2020	12,072	15,128	4,056	6,217
2021	11,619	15,240	3,855	5,644
2022	11,548	15,634	4,150	5,983
2023	12,373	16,619	4,539	6,705
2024	12,626	16,608	4,736	6,684
YTD 2025	8,627	11,235	3,288	4,577

Table 1: Number of unique patients treated

	LHO 24 Cork-South Lee	LHO 25 Cork North Lee	LHO 26 West Cork	LHO 28 North Cork
2019	42,401	52,967	14,095	23,432
2020	33,474	42,953	11,213	17,073
2021	33,324	43,787	10,930	16,221
2022	37,015	50,630	13,192	19,309
2023	42,195	57,605	15,176	22,728
2024	43,477	57,405	16,031	22,438
YTD 2025	26,592	35,260	10,021	14,081

Table 2: Total number of treatments

Oral healthcare services for adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy).

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