



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068
E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie
National Oral Health Office
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068
Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

07 August 2025

Deputy John Brady
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

41921/25:

To ask the Minister for Health the number of children and adults that are on the dental appointment waiting list in Wicklow; the average waiting times for appointments; and if she will make a statement on the matter

Dear Deputy Brady,

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.

Following engagement with the relevant Health Regions, below outlines the current position for the Integrated Healthcare Areas (IHA) Dublin South Wicklow and Dublin South West, Kildare West Wicklow.

IHA - Dublin South Wicklow

Children

The dental school programme commences with 6th class and follows with 2nd and 4th- depending on available resources. Since school year 2019/2020 the Dental Service in IHA Dublin South and Wicklow has targeted 6th class and Special Needs classes. There are insufficient staffing resources available to target 2nd and 4th classes at present. The table below contains the numbers in 2nd and 4th class per academic year who were not offered service. The numbers for 2024/25 include 6th class currently being targeted.

| School year | Target Eligible Population | Classes |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2024/25 | 4821 | 2nd, 4th and 6th classes |
| 2023/24 | 3819 | 2nd and 4th classes |
| 2022/23 | 3868 | 2nd and 4th classes |

| | | |
|---------|------|---------------------|
| 2021/22 | 3560 | 2nd and 4th classes |
| 2020/21 | 3771 | 2nd and 4th classes |

Adults

- Most adult patients with medical cards access care through DTSS; there are no waiting lists associated with this scheme.
- There are 160 adult special care patients who were seen in August 2024 who are due to be recalled this year.
- There are 5 adult patients waiting for restorative treatment under General Anaesthetic at Connolly Hospital, wait time is less than 12 months.
- There was a service providing access to Minor Oral Surgery at St Columille's Hospital. This waiting list has been cleared and is now closed due to retirement. Prior to closure, the waiting time averaged 3 months, with up to 40 people waiting for treatment.

IHA - Dublin South West Kildare West Wicklow

Children

The HSE Dental Service serves to target children in second, fourth and sixth classes in national schools. Information for fourth classes is no longer collected as these classes have not been targeted in some years due to resource constraints in the Dental Service, therefore, the figures for this cohort are estimated. The information below does not include children outside of target classes that attend as dental emergency cases, special care patients and other non-routine appointments. Therefore, the numbers below are an under representation of the numbers waiting for dental services.

The Dublin South West Kildare West Wicklow Dental Service do not hold this data per county. It is estimated that there are approximately 4989, second class children and 4548 sixth class children awaiting to seen. Additionally, this does not include emergency appointments, non-routine or special care patients. Although waiting times are given for second and sixth classes, it is not expected that any children in these classes will be targeted during those time periods in light of available clinical resources.

| Academic year | Second class target population | Fourth class numbers (estimated) | Sixth class target population | Current waiting times (6th class being targeted) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 2020/2021 | 5459 | 5000 | 5488 | 0 |
| 2021/2022 | 5554 | 5000 | 5433 | 0 |
| 2022/2023 | 5606 | 5000 | 5639 | 0 |
| 2023/2024 | 5518 | 5000 | 5514 <i>428 (waiting to be offered a service)</i> | 1 year |
| 2024/2025 | 4989 | 5000 | 4548 | 9months |

Adults

The Dublin South West Kildare West Wicklow Dental Service confirm that waiting lists are not maintained for adults for public dentists.

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