



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
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National Oral Health Office  
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**09 August 2025**

**Deputy John Brady  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 41923/25:**

**To ask the Minister for Health the number of dental practitioners who are signed up to the dental treatment scheme in CH06 Wicklow and CH07 west Wicklow; the measures being undertaken by her Department to increase this number; 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.

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. 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 on the dental treatment services scheme for local health office areas Kildare/West Wicklow and Wicklow is detailed in the table below. Please note that LHO 6 also includes contractors in Kildare.

	<b>LHO 6 Kildare/West Wicklow</b>	<b>LHO 7 Wicklow</b>
<b>No of DTSS Contractors</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>

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.

Oral healthcare services for adults are included in the reorientation of services described in Smile Agus Sláinte (National Oral Health Policy) – the implementation of which is included in priorities and funding from budget 2025.



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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**