



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
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**05 August 2025**

**Deputy Padraig Rice  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 42570/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists contracted to the dental treatment services scheme in each regional health area and integrated healthcare area, in 2024 and 2025, in tabular form.**

Dear Deputy Rice,

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 attached Excel SpreadSheet details the number contracted dentists within the scheme in 2024 and at June 2025. The data is available by Local Health Office, and not by Regional Health and Integrated Health Area as requested. A process to update the contract numbers was undertaken in June 2023 which resulted in the removal of inactive contracts.

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.

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.

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**

Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract	LHO 1 Duniaghaire	LHO 2 Dublin South East	LHO 3 Dublin South City	LHO 4 Dublin South West	LHO 5 Dublin West	LHO 6 Kildare/West Wicklow	LHO 7 Wicklow	LHO 8 Laois/O'faly	LHO 9 Longford/Westmeath	LHO 10 North West Dublin	LHO 11 Dublin North Central	LHO 12 North Dublin	LHO 13 Cavan/Monaghan	LHO 14 Louth	LHO 15 Meath	LHO 16 Galway	LHO 17 Mayo	LHO 18 Roscommon	LHO 19 Donegal	LHO 20 Sligo/Leitrim	LHO 21 Clare	LHO 22 North Tipp/East Limerick	LHO 23 Limerick	LHO 24 Cork-South Lee	LHO 25 Cork North Lee	LHO 26 West Cork	LHO 27 Kerry	LHO 28 North Cork	LHO 29 Carlow/Kilkenny	LHO 30 Waterford	LHO 31 South Tipperary	LHO 32 Wexford	National Total
2024	10	6	37	26	11	26	15	10	31	25	24	18	52	19	14	57	21	6	41	10	12	20	50	55	78	18	18	27	20	20	21	14	812
2025	10	6	36	29	12	24	15	10	30	26	25	20	52	18	13	58	22	6	43	10	13	21	53	59	78	21	18	27	20	20	22	16	833