



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

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

**PQ 42573/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of persons employed by the HSE to deliver school dental screening in 2024 and to date in 2025, by grade, 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 number of public dentists employed by the HSE for the years 2024 and to date 2025 is detailed in the attached spreadsheet (where a 1.0 WTE is equivalent a full time dentist working in the service). The data is available by CHO (2024) and Health Region (2025). The Health Services Executive delivers dental services to children under the age of 16, provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. The school dental service provides examination and any necessary preventive and restorative treatment noted at examination. In addition to the School Programme, the HSE Dental service provides access to emergency dental care to children between 0-16 years and adults with additional needs.

The Chief Officer and REOs have identified 34.7 WTE vacancies in 2024 across oral health services nationally, to be prioritized for filling. An additional 15 WTE new dental service posts were provided in the National Service Plan 2025. This provides a 49.7 WTE for recruitment to improve staffing levels within oral health teams nationally. Oral healthcare services for adults and children 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**

Dental Grades - HSE Only	Saolta University Hospital Care	CHO 1	CHO 2	CHO 3	CHO 4	CHO 5	CHO 6	CHO 7	CHO 8	CHO 9
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>90</b>
Dental Hygienist	1	2	3	6	3	5	4	4	10	4
Dental Hygienist, Senior		2	2	1	3	2			3	2
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professional</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	4				3	1	3			2
Orthodontics, Specialist	7			3	4	4	10		6	4
Dental Surgeon, Senior		4	4	5	6	4	3	5	4	6
Dental Surgeon, General		16	15	13	31	20	9	17	14	18
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative		3	2	3	4	4	3	5	3	2
Dental Surgeon, Principal		6	2	1	3	2	1	2	4	2
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>34</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)		2		6	1	1				
Dental Nurse	21	26	20	29	57	40	35	36	51	42
Dental Nurse, Senior	2	7	6	5	13	8	7	5	9	8
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>

Dental Grades - HSE Only	Total	HSE Midwest	HSE Dublin & North East	HSE Dublin & South East	HSE Dublin & Midlands	HSE West & North West	HSE South West
<b>Total</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>125</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	14		3	4		4	3
Orthodontics, Specialist	36	2	5	13	3	8	4
Dental Surgeon, Senior	38	5	8	5	7	7	6
Dental Surgeon, General	152	14	35	30	19	26	29
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administra	27	3	5	6	5	4	4
Dental Surgeon, Principal	24	1	5	4	4	7	3
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>50</b>
Dental Hygienist	40	6	8	9	9	5	3
Dental Hygienist, Senior	15	1	5	2	1	4	2
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Profession:</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualifi	8	5		1		2	1
Dental Nurse	349	30	70	75	63	55	56
Dental Nurse, Senior	70	4	14	13	11	16	13
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>