



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
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23 June 2025

**Brian Stanley
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

PQ 29755/25

To ask the Minister for Health if recruitment of public dentists is still facing an embargo due to HSE budget constraints; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Stanley,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Question, which you submitted to the Minister for response.

The agreement between the Department of Health and HSE known as Pay and Numbers Strategy in 2024, created a baseline of staffing WTE.

The Chief Officer and REOs have identified 34.7 WTE vacancies in 2024 across oral health services nationally, to be prioritized for filling.

The National Service Plan provided 15 WTE additional new posts, specifically to improve staffing levels within the HSE Community Dental Service.

Both of these developments are supported by the Department of Health which will improve the staffing levels currently available to provide service. Work is underway across the regions to recruit into these positions, as well as replacing those who may have left the service in 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**