



Head of Service Primary Care

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Ms Grace Boland TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Email: grace.boland@oireachtas.ie

PQ 31041/25 – *“To ask the Minister for Health her plans to increase staffing levels within the HSE dental services in CHO9 specifically and restore a full screening schedule; and if she will make a statement on the matter”*
- Grace Boland TD

Dear Deputy Boland,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

The HSE Dental Service in CHO9 is currently managing a number of staffing vacancies, which are being actively considered under the Pay and Numbers Strategy for replacement within the area. Addressing these vacancies in Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West will improve access to dental screening for eligible children.

In addition to screening services the HSE Dental Service continues to provide daily emergency dental care for all children under the age of 16, as well as for adults with special care needs.

The Dental Service has been advised that the implementation of the National Oral Health Policy remains a key Government priority, with a focus on enhancing patient access to oral healthcare services. A plan outlining the initial phase of this policy's rollout is expected to be published shortly.

The forthcoming implementation plan is expected to include measures related to workforce planning and legislative reform. However, the progression of any initiatives requiring additional resources will be subject to the outcome of the annual budgetary process.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde
Head of Service Primary Care
HSE Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and
Dublin North City & West