



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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10 July 2025

Deputy Marie Sherlock
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 33475/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists contracted to the dental treatment services scheme, per local health area, from the years 2020 to 2025, in tabular form; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Sherlock,

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 from the year 2020 to date 2025.

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 OTSS contract	LHO 1 Dunlao ghaire	LHO 2 Dublin South East	LHO 3 Dublin South City	LHO 4 Dublin South West	LHO 5 Dublin West	LHO 6 Kildare West Wicklo w	LHO 7 Wicklo w	LHO 8 Laois/O ffaly	LHO 9 Longfo rd Westme ath	LHO 10 North West Dublin	LHO 11 Dublin North Central	LHO 12 North Dublin	LHO 13 Cavan/ Monagh- an	LHO 14 Louth	LHO 15 Meath	LHO 16 Galway	LHO 17 Mayo	LHO 18 Roscom mon	LHO 19 Donegal	LHO 20 Sligo/ Leitrim	LHO 21 Clare	LHO 22 North Tipperar y at Limeric k	LHO 23 Limeric k	LHO 24 Cork- South Lee	LHO 25 Cork North Lee	LHO 26 West Cork	LHO 27 Kerry	LHO 28 North Cork	LHO 29 Carlow/ Kilkenn y	LHO 30 Waterfo rd	LHO 31 South Tippera ry	LHO 32 Wexfor d	Nationa l Total
2020	20	24	46	45	25	49	29	24	44	37	38	65	62	21	36	121	53	15	55	14	20	26	54	89	105	26	29	34	46	38	23	37	1,354
2021	12	8	31	36	15	41	18	17	38	34	35	66	59	20	10	115	29	17	46	12	17	24	53	90	111	27	24	30	37	31	21	26	1,151
2022	11	6	22	38	12	38	16	11	31	35	34	59	59	23	11	111	30	17	45	12	15	23	52	83	101	25	18	29	22	23	19	15	1,046
2023	10	5	25	28	13	27	16	10	32	25	28	22	52	16	14	57	23	8	42	10	12	18	44	57	79	17	18	28	19	21	21	14	812
2024	10	6	37	26	11	20	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	38	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