



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
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25 April 2025

Deputy David Cullinane
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 10946/25 To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children, and separately, the number of special-care patients, adult and children, who are on dental surgery waiting lists at the end of February 2019, 2023, 2024 and 2025, in tabular form; the breakdown, by waiting timeband and by county; the number on waiting lists for dental surgery under general anaesthesia; and the median waiting time for each.

Dear Deputy Cullinane,

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 1970 Health Act outlined a legislative basis on which the HSE Community Dental Service has provided dental treatment to children over the past 55 years. As part of this commitment, the service provides both emergency and scheduled dental care to children under the age of 16, and to those adults with medical card holders. The service to adult medical card holders was enhanced by the creation of the DTSS in 1996, but there remains a small cohort of adults whose dental operative care can only be achieved under sedation, specifically under general anaesthesia (GA). The HSE Community Service continues to experience difficulties in provision of timely care to these patient groups through inadequate access and deficient capacity for GA.

The data relating to the current number of patients waiting for an appointment and length of time waiting is not available as requested.

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