



**22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

Ms Emer Currie TD,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

Email: [Emer.Currie@oireachtas.ie](mailto:Emer.Currie@oireachtas.ie)

**PQ 11838/25 – “To ask the Minister for Health the number of children in Dublin north west on the orthodontics waiting list, the number waiting for 6, 12 and over 18 months; and if she will make a statement on the matter” – Emer Currie TD**

Dear Deputy Currie,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you with information in the context of the above Parliamentary Question. I examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County and Dublin North City & West (IHA DNCW) Orthodontic Team have advised there are currently 1310 children on their waiting list as follows:

Number of children on Orthodontics Waiting List	
0-6 Months	97
6-12 Months	173
12 months +	1040

IHA DNCW Orthodontic Team work across two IHA areas covering all 12 Community Health Networks. The waiting lists are not broken down by IHA as it is one service.

Waiting lists can fluctuate depending on staffing levels/recruitment and national initiatives to assist with reducing waiting lists. Due to the nature of orthodontic treatment, active patients currently in treatment have on-going appointments for the duration of their treatment which varies from patient to patient. As all our Orthodontists are working at full capacity with existing treatment plans, there is slow progress from the waiting list. In most cases, a patient must be discharged from the service upon treatment completion before another patient can start their treatment.

There is discussion at national level on a funding initiative for category 5a however this has not yet being confirmed. We await an update.

There is an alternative option under the Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme available, whereby patients choose to go to Northern Ireland to seek treatment.

The Cross Border Directive is also available, whereby patients choose to go to another EU or EEA member state for treatment. These options are managed through a National Service and it's a separate funding structure to the Orthodontic Service.

Further information can be found here:

<https://www2.hse.ie/services/schemes-allowances/cross-border-directive/> or by contacting the Cross Border Directive Office in Kilkenny on (056) 7784546

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,

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**Vanessa Fitzgerald**  
**General Manager Primary Care**  
**Dublin North City & West**