



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
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11 April 2025

Deputy Ryan O'Meara  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**PQ 13392/25 To ask the Minister for Health the financial supports available towards a dental procedure for a child, who has undergone a private assessment due to waiting lists; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy O'Meara,

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.

Financial supports available towards a dental procedure for individuals are across a range of different systems.

There are two structured HSE schemes, The Northern Ireland Planned Healthcare Scheme (NIPHS) and Cross Border Directive Scheme, which are designed to provide funding for patients. Access to these schemes is initiated by patients, who fund treatment directly and claim refund through these schemes.

The Department of Health has provided significant funding of €24.2m over the past number of years to oral health initiatives, which provide access to private providers. These initiatives have enabled access to treatment for orthodontics and orthognathic patients on HSE dental and orthodontic waiting lists.

The Revenue system enables relief on the cost of health expenses which can be claimed as a family member or dependent. The types of expenses that qualify for relief and how to claim them is available from the Revenue website and depend on the nature of the dental procedure.

The HSE's 2025 National Service Plan aims to continue to develop services and implement waiting list initiatives across a range of dental and orthodontic services and maximise activity across these services to manage waiting lists and waiting times. The service plan supports the implementation of the Government's National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte, including the development of comprehensive oral healthcare packages for roll-out to children aged from birth to seven years of age.

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**