



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
Teil: 061 492068  
E: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)  
National Oral Health Office  
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,  
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick  
Tel: 061 492068  
Email: [nationaloralhealth@hse.ie](mailto:nationaloralhealth@hse.ie)

**19 March 2025**

**Deputy Shay Brennan  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 9254/25 To ask the Minister for Health if she acknowledges the significant understaffing in dental services, with some areas still working through backlogs of 6th class students who graduated in 2024; and if she will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Brennan,

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 ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma.

The Department of Health has supported 15 WTE additional new posts, specifically to improve staffing levels within the HSE Community Dental Service.

The Chief Officer and REOs have identified 34.7 WTE vacancies in 2024 across oral health services nationally, to be prioritized for filling.

The Department of Health is supportive of recruitment to the 49.7 WTE identified through these two processes, which will improve the staffing levels currently available to provide service.

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**