



6th November 2025

Deputy Matt Carthy
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Re: PQ 52349/25 To ask the Minister for Health if she will report on the provision of orthodontic services in the north-east region; the reasons for delays in accessing services; and her proposals to ensure adequate service levels – Matt Carthy

Dear Deputy Carthy

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and outlined the position as follows.

Orthodontic service provision in the Louth/Meath Region are currently as follows:

Clinic	Clinical Staff	WTE	Clerical Staff	WTE
Navan Orthodontic	2 x Specialist Orthodontist 1 x Oral Hygienist 1x Oral Therapist 4 X Dental Nurses	2 x 1.0 0.6 1.0 2 x 0.8 2 x 1.0	1 x Grade 4 Clerical Officer	1.0
VACANT POST NAVAN	1 x Orthodontic Consultant 1x Dental Nurse (EOI –Oct 25)*	1.0 1 x 0.9	1 x Grade 3 Clerical Officer (EOI –Oct 25)*	0.6
Dundalk Orthodontic	1 x Oral Hygienist 3 X Dental Nurses	1.0 1 x 0.6 1 x 0.4 1 x 1.0	1 x Grade 3 Clerical Officer	0.8
VACANT POSTS DUNDALK	1 x Orthodontic Consultant 2 x Orthodontic Specialist	1.0 1 x 0.2 1 x 1.0		

*EOI – Expression of Interest



At present the service has no Consultant Orthodontist (covering both Dundalk and Navan clinics) or Specialist Orthodontists based in the Dundalk clinic due to vacant posts.

The Consultant Orthodontist post has been vacant since late December 2022. Despite various efforts to recruit; including advertisement in Britain Dental Journal, the Belfast Telegraph and relevant universities in UK and Northern Ireland last year, there have been no applicants. The recruitment process was paused in December 2024 due to the new consultant contract. Submission was made to the Consultant Applications Advisory Committee (CAAC) in 2025 for this post to be advertised again under the new contract, and approval was confirmed in July 2025. The post will be going back out for campaign in the coming weeks. We are also seeking Consultant support from neighbouring areas.

We currently have two Specialist Orthodontist posts (1.2WTE) vacancies in the Dundalk Clinic. Despite multiple campaigns; including advertisement in Britain Dental Journal, the Belfast Telegraph and relevant universities in UK and Northern Ireland last year, we were not successful. These posts are currently being advertised with a closing date of 14/10/2025.

We have been seeking agency since July 2024 for both the Consultant and Specialist Orthodontic posts but have also not been successful.

There are 2 WTE Specialist Orthodontists based in Navan and one Specialist Orthodontist based in Longford who have been supporting patients who are in treatment in the Orthodontic Department in Dundalk.

I trust this information is of assistance to you but please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Ruane
Head of Primary Care Services
Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation