



**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service, Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare,**  
**Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co. Cork**  
**Email: [Priscilla.Lynch@hse.ie](mailto:Priscilla.Lynch@hse.ie)**

12th February, 2024

Mr. Pa Daly, T.D.,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Dublin 2

**PQ ref 48090/23**

**“To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in County Kerry who currently accept medical cards; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”**

Dear Deputy Daly,

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.

The Primary Care Dental Service provides dental treatment to eligible children, medical card holders, adults and children with special needs and others in the care of the HSE at various locations throughout Cork and Kerry. Children under 16 years of age are treated in HSE dental clinics and adults are treated by private dental practitioners contracted to the Health Services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS).

Unfortunately, it appears that only one dentist in Co. Kerry is accepting new medical card patients at this time. As an interim measure, pending renegotiation of the Dental Treatment Services Scheme, the HSE Dental Service in Co. Kerry has set up an emergency service for medical card holders so that those experiencing pain, infection or bleeding can get access to emergency dental care and this service can be accessed by contacting the HSE Dental Clinic in Tralee on (066) 7104919. Unfortunately, this service does not provide routine dental care but staff at the HSE Dental Clinic in Tralee will be able to advise of practices in neighbouring counties that are accepting new patients.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Priscilla Lynch**  
**Head of Service - Primary Care,**  
**Cork Kerry Community Healthcare**