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**Deputy Catherine Murphy
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2**

48517/23: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists to persons ratio in each CHO region.

Dear Deputy Murphy,

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 Health Services Executive delivers dental services to children under the age of 16, provided through 17 Dental Areas, all of which continue to provide routine services. These services are delivered with a strong preventive ethos in order to minimise the incidence of dental disease in vulnerable populations. In particular this preventive approach involves the delivery of personalised oral health promotion for children and people with special care needs. Children are seen at ages that correspond with dental developmental milestones to identify opportunities for timely preventive interventions such as fissure sealants and the need for restorative treatment, as well as monitoring the eruption of the permanent dentition including possible orthodontic anomalies requiring referral for HSE orthodontic assessment.

The table below outlines the number of dental surgeons (WTE), employed by the HSE as at October 2023, and the population of each CHO region.

CHO Area	Population	HSE Employed Dentists (WTE) as at October 2023			
		Dental Surgeon, Senior	Dental Surgeon, General	Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	Dental Surgeon, Principal
1	389,048	25			
2	453,413	23			
3	385,172	23			
4	664,533	48			
5	497,578	30			
6	364,464	16			
7	674,071	30			
8	592,388	25			
9	581,486	31			

I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Anne M O Neill

Anne M O Neill
AND, Oral Health