



**Eagraíocht Cúram
Sláinte Pobail**
Tuaisceart Chathair &
Tuaisceart Chontae
Baile Átha Cliath

**Community Healthcare
Organisation**
Dublin North City &
County

Ceannasaí Seirbhíse Cúram Príomhúil,
Tuaisceart Chathair & Tuaisceart Chontae
Bhaile Átha Cliath,
Campas Gnó Shoird, Bóthar Bhaile Anraí, Sord,
Co. Bhaile Átha Cliath, Éircód K67 X3Y9

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Mr Duncan Smith TD,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Head of Service Primary Care,
HSE CHO Dublin North City and County
Swords Business Campus
Balheary Road
Swords
Co. Dublin Eircode: K67 X3Y9

25th March 2024

PQ 8965/24 – “To ask the Minister for Health the names of dentists within CHO9 that are currently accepting new medical card holders, in tabular form” - Duncan Smith TD

Dear Deputy Smith,

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

Unfortunately, there is no formal process where a Dental Treatment Service Scheme (DTSS) contractor within Community Healthcare Organisation for Dublin North City and County (CHO DNCC) advises they are accepting or not accepting new DTSS patients. I have attached the list of current DTSS Dentists within CHO DNCC however we are unable to confirm which of these Dental practices are taking on new patients. Unfortunately, there are no guidelines from Primary Care Reimbursement Services (PCRS) stating that there has to be a dentist holding a medical card contract in an area. We acknowledge that there has been a decrease in the number of dentists who partake in the DTSS and some patients may have to travel further afield due to a lack for providers.

The HSE and Department of Health are in negotiations regarding a new dental contract to provide dental services to Medical Card holders as part of Smile Agus Sláinte- the national Oral Health Policy <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/90687b-smile-agus-slainte-national-oral-health-policy/>

In the event of an emergency, the Dental Team in Community Healthcare Organisation Dublin City and County (CHO DNCC) are currently running an Emergency Dental Clinic in Larkhill Health Centre to accommodate any patient who is in pain and unable to get access to a dentist through the Dental Treatment Service Scheme. They can be contacted at: 01-646 4550 or alternatively, a patient can contact their local HSE Dental Clinic to be referred. They will be triaged and if suitable, offered an appointment.

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

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Forde
Head of Service Primary Care