

8th February, 2024

Mr. Thomas Gould, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2

PQ ref 1286/24

“To ask the Minister for Health the number of adults and children, respectively in Cork waiting for orthodontic treatment in six-month time intervals, from 0-6 months to 7+ years, in tabular form.”

Dear Deputy Gould,

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 goal of the Health Service Executive (HSE) Orthodontic Service is to improve the appearance and function of misaligned or crooked teeth, with free orthodontic treatment being provided to children with the most severe orthodontic problems. Qualification for treatment is determined by nationally agreed eligibility guidelines based on an international grading system, Index of Orthodontic Treatment Needed (IOTN). All referrals for the service are triaged and given a priority rating by the clinical team.

The below table outlines the treatment waiting list figure for all of Cork and Kerry, please note North Cork are included in this figure but are treated in Cork University School and Dental Hospital (Please note figures given on 19/01/2024).

WL Category	0-6 Months	7-12 Months	13-24 Months	25-36 Months	37-48 Months	49-60 Months	> 60 Months	Total no. January 2024
WL Grade 5	177	151	172	185	145	328	32	1190
WL Grade 4	267	218	212	201	193	238	17	1346

The National Oral Health Office (NOHO) treatment waiting list initiative is for patients who meet certain clinical criteria and are on a treatment waiting list over 3 years. All grade 4 are eligible for the NOHO treatment waiting list initiative but there are currently no providers in Cork.

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