



**Ceann Seirbhíse, Cúraim Príomhúil**  
Cúram Sláinte Pobail Cabhán Dún na nGall  
Liatroim Muineachán, Sligeach  
An Clochar, Sráid an Choláiste, Béal Átha  
Seanaidh, Co Dhun na nGall, F94 TPX4

**Head of Service, Primary Care**  
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Marian Harkin TD  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin

**Re: PQ 1700 24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists in County Leitrim who are available to treat patients under the dental treatment services scheme; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Harkin

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context enquiry regarding the above parliamentary question, which you submitted to the Chief Officer Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position for Community Healthcare Cavan Donegal Leitrim Monaghan Sligo.

In Sligo and Leitrim there has been a significant reduction in the numbers of participating Dental Contractors, with only one contractor providing care for medical card patients under the DTSS in County Leitrim. This is further complicated by the fact that many of those staying on the scheme are not taking on new patients and are only providing care for those who have previously attended their practice. It is also acknowledged that the situation in the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) is extremely difficult nationally with widespread reports of medical card holders being unable to access care.

Sligo and Leitrim HSE Dental Service has continuously assisted patients in seeking dental care from participating DTSS contractors. The Dental Department now receive multiple requests for emergency care every day as patients are unable to access care with a DTSS contractor and there is no option of redirecting patients to alternative DTSS contractors due to the ever increasing resignations from the scheme. HSE Dental Services provide an acute emergency service for patients that cannot access emergency care with a DTSS contractor.

Currently, the service is providing emergency and routine care to targeted Paediatric groups, special care patients, Ukrainian patients and Persons under International Protection with a WTE of 1.4 Dentists in County Leitrim so the capacity to provide emergency care to DTSS patients is very limited.

Kindly note this response was held due Fórsa Industrial Action which has now been lifted.

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

Yours sincerely

**Mandy Doyle**  
**Ceannasaí Seirbhíse, Cúram Príomhúil**  
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