



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
 Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
 An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
 Teil: 061 492068
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 National Oral Health Office
 Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
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19 March 2024

**Deputy Carol Nolan
 Dáil Eireann
 Leinster House
 Kildare Street
 Dublin 2**

PQ 10285/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists contracted to the DTSS for the years 2012 to date inclusive, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Nolan,

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.

Adult medical card holders have access to dental services under the Dental Treatment Services Scheme (DTSS) through care provided by private dentists that hold DTSS contracts with the HSE. The DTSS is a “choice of dentist” scheme which does not require the patient to register with a particular dentist and enables medical card holders to attend any DTSS contractor directly without recourse to the HSE. The number of dentists contracted to the DTSS for the years 2012 to date inclusive is detailed in the table below. An administrative exercise was undertaken in June 2023 to clean the database which resulted in the removal of some non-active contracts.

Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract	National Total
2012	1,452
2013	1,541
2014	1,608
2015	1,643
2016	1,664
2017	1,431
2018	1,484
2019	1,490
2020	1,354
2021	1,151
2022	1,046
2023	812
2024	810



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

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr Anne O'Neill".

Anne O'Neill
Assistant National Director, Oral Health