



21 May 2024

Deputy Catherine Murphy  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

**19687/24: To ask the Minister for Health the person to dentist ratio, per CHO region, as of 25 April 2024.**

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 March 2024, and the population of each CHO region. It should be noted that the eligible population for HSE funded dental care is children between the ages of 0-16 and adults with a full medical card.

CHO Area	Population	HSE Employed Dentists (WTE) as at March 2024 Dental Surgeon, Senior Dental Surgeon, General Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative Dental Surgeon, Principal
1	389,048	26
2	453,413	23
3	385,172	24
4	664,533	47
5	497,578	34
6	364,464	17

7	674,071	29
8	592,388	25
9	581,486	29

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*

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**Anne M O Neill**  
**AND, Oral Health**