



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 July 2024

Deputy Michael Creed
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 22837/24: To ask the Minister for Health the current state of the school dental service; if he is aware that in certain circumstances the service is only providing access for emergency cases; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Creed,

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 HSE Community Dental Service targets children in key school years (6th, 2nd and 4th classes), offering them dental examinations, preventive care and restorative treatments for conditions noted, and is resource dependent. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma. For routine and preventive services, patient groups are prioritised with children and adults with special care needs given the highest priority, followed by children in 6th class. The ability to offer services to each of the school years has been limited due to availability of dental staff. As part of targeting of resources, each dental service maintains a commitment to urgent/emergency treatment for the relief of pain, infection, and the sequelae of trauma.

The table below details KPI data for the Dental Service (up to June 2024). The reported metric for the Dental Service is the number of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment. The KPI data includes those of school going ages and that while the number of patients being assessed varies according to resources, every CHO has returned statistics to show that they are continuing to provide assessments to children of school going ages every month.

Metric Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Total no. of new oral health patients in target groups attending for scheduled assessment	10112	9476	8151	9999	10143	7823



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The National Service Plan supports the implementation of the Government's National Oral Health Policy, Smile Agus Sláinte, including the development of comprehensive oral healthcare packages for roll-out to children aged from birth to seven years of age. I trust this information is of assistance to you, but if you require further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Anne O'Neill".

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health