



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
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18 November 2024

Deputy Roisin Shortall
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 45278/24:

To ask the Minister for Health the total number of dentists participating in the dental treatment services scheme in each of the years since 2019, by CHO and LHO, in tabular form.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

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 dental treatment services scheme for the years 2019-2024 is detailed in the attached Excel Sheet.

A process to update the contract numbers was undertaken in June 2023. The HSE corresponded with contract holders requesting they review their availability for provision of care for medical card holders. Several contractors contacted the service to advise that while they remain active on the scheme, they have no availability within the practice for new patients- either private or DTSS. The number of dentists claiming per month has remained relatively stable. Availability of appointments fluctuates according to the daily capacity of the practices - it is not possible to indicate which may have available appointments on any given day.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health

Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract	LHO 1 Dunlaoghaire	LHO 2 Dublin South East	LHO 3 Dublin South City	LHO 4 Dublin South West	LHO 5 Dublin West	LHO 6 Kildare/West Wicklow	LHO 7 Wicklow	LHO 8 Laois/Of faly	LHO 9 Longford/Westmeath	LHO 10 North West Dublin	LHO 11 Dublin North Central	LHO 12 North Dublin	LHO 13 Cavan/Monaghan	LHO 14 Louth	LHO 15 Meath	LHO 16 Galway	LHO 17 Mayo	LHO 18 Roscommon	LHO 19 Donegal	LHO 20 Sligo/Leitrim	LHO 21 Clare	LHO 22 North Tipp/East Limerick	LHO 23 Limerick	LHO 24 Cork-South Lee	LHO 25 Cork North Lee	LHO 26 West Cork	LHO 27 Kerry	LHO 28 North Cork	LHO 29 Carlow/Kilkenny	LHO 30 Waterford	LHO 31 South Tipperary	LHO 32 Wexford	National Total	
2019	24	27	46	46	30	58	40	33	47	47	50	71	68	34	36	128	52	15	52	17	21	26	54	100	106	26	32	35	48	48	24	24	49	1,490
2020	20	24	46	45	25	49	29	24	44	37	38	65	62	21	30	121	53	15	55	14	20	26	54	99	105	26	29	34	46	38	23	37	26	1,354
2021	12	8	31	36	15	41	18	17	39	34	35	66	59	20	10	115	29	17	46	12	17	24	53	90	111	27	24	30	37	31	21	26	1,151	
2022	11	6	22	38	12	38	16	11	31	35	34	59	59	23	11	111	30	17	45	12	15	23	52	83	101	25	18	29	22	23	19	15	1,046	
2023	10	5	25	28	12	27	16	10	32	25	28	22	52	18	14	57	23	8	42	10	12	18	44	57	79	17	18	28	19	21	21	14	812	
2024	10	6	37	26	11	26	15	10	31	25	24	18	52	19	14	57	21	6	41	10	12	20	50	55	78	18	18	27	20	20	21	14	812	