



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068
E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie
National Oral Health Office
Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068
Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

29 November 2024

Deputy Colm Brophy
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 45888/24

To ask the Minister for Health the number of dentists contracted under the dental treatment services scheme from 2011 to 2023 and to date in 2024; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Brophy,

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 2011-2024 is detailed below.

Number of Private Dentists with DTSS contract	National Total
2011	1,480
2012	1,452
2013	1,541
2014	1,608
2015	1,643
2016	1,664
2017	1,664
2018	1,446
2019	1,490
2020	1,354
2021	1,151
2022	1,046
2023	812
2024	812



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béil,
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach
Teil: 061 492068

E: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie
National Oral Health Office

Roselawn House, University Business Complex,
National Technology Park, Castletroy, Limerick
Tel: 061 492068

Email: nationaloralhealth@hse.ie

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,

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

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health