



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

Deputy Paul Kehoe
Dáil Eireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

PQ 34141/24: To ask the Minister for Health the number of children qualified for free orthodontics under the HSE scheme over the last ten years, in tabular form; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe,

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 funds orthodontic treatment for children whose eligibility is defined by a clinical assessment and categorisation against an internationally recognised orthodontic index.

The IOTN (Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need) categorises patients into five groups based on clinical need. The HSE National Orthodontic treatment guidelines provides funding for those assessed as grade 5 and a limited range of grade 4 IOTN patient categories, who are placed on treatment waiting lists across the Orthodontic Service nationally.

I wish to advise the Deputy that the data is not available as requested. The centrally collated record for the data requested for years 2014-2016 is not readily available. Below are the number of orthodontic patients on treatment waiting lists reported at year end for 2017-2024.

Q4 2017	13,901
Q4 2018	17,390
Q4 2019	18,152
Q4 2020	15,790
Q3* 2021 (*full data report)	13,779
Q4 2022	11,098
Q4 2023	11,280
Q2 2024	11,042

Source: KPI Data



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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,

Dr Anne O'Neill

Anne O'Neill

Assistant National Director, Oral Health