



Office of the Head of Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare
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24th January 2025

Mr Brian Brennan TD
Dail Eireann
Leinster House
Dublin

PQ 1500/25

To ask the Minister for Health the measures that are being taken to reduce the waiting list for orthodontic treatment for children in Wexford; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Brennan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have reviewed the matter and the following is the current position.

The Orthodontic Service in the South East is a consultant-led regional service across Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford.

The wait time for Orthodontic assessment is currently under 6 months. Qualification for treatment is determined by nationally agreed eligibility guidelines based on an international grading system (IOTN). All patients are classified by severity of need in accordance with the IOTN and patients with greatest clinical need are prioritised for treatment.

In the South East Regional Orthodontic Service the current wait-time for orthodontic treatment following assessment for those classified as routine is approximately 84 months.

Waiting List initiatives were previously organised by the National Oral Health Office for patients experiencing long waiting periods on HSE orthodontic waiting lists. Treatment was outsourced under a structured procurement framework to private service providers contracted to the HSE. To date the South East Regional Orthodontic Service has not received confirmation of a scheme for 2025.

I can confirm that the post of an Orthodontic Specialist in Waterford is currently in the HSE recruitment process. Once the recruitment process has been completed and the post filled, patients from the Wexford area may attend for treatment in Waterford which may assist with waiting times in the Wexford area.

Patients may also access treatment under the Cross Border Directive Scheme which is available in Northern Ireland. Please see attached information leaflet in relation to the Cross Border Directive Scheme may be useful.

I trust this is of assistance. Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Goff", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Goff
A/Head of Service-Primary Care
South East Community Healthcare