



Oifig Náisiúnta Sláinte Béal,  
Áras Phlásóg na Rós Coimpléasc Gnó na hOllscoile,  
An Pháirc Náisiúnta Teicneolaíochta, Caladh an Treoigh, Luimneach  
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**06 February 2025**

**Deputy Cian O'Callaghan  
Dáil Eireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2**

**PQ 1918/25: To ask the Minister for Health the number of publicly employed dentists, orthodontists, dental surgeons, dental nurses, and other dental/orthodontic staff by staff grade employed by the public services for each year 2017-2024, by LHO/CHO/region; and if he will make a statement on the matter**

Dear Deputy O'Callaghan,

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 number of publicly employed dental and orthodontic staff for each year 2017 -2024 is detailed in the attached Excel SpreadSheet.

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. Annelietha O'Neill*

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**Anne O'Neill  
Assistant National Director, Oral Health**

Grade by Staff Category by Hospital/CHO	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dental Surgeon, Senior	7	6	5	5	6	4	4	4
Dental Surgeon, General	17	18	18	17	16	16	12	16
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	1	1		1	2	1	4	3
Dental Surgeon, Principal	3	3	5	5	6	6	6	6
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>29</b>
Dental Hygienist	6	5	5	5	5	5	3	2
Dental Hygienist, Senior							2	2
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	2
Dental Nurse	25	24	24	28	27	27	27	26
Dental Nurse, Senior	8	8	7	7	6	6	6	7
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>CHO 1</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>66</b>
Dental Surgeon, Senior	6	4	4	3	4	4	4	4
Dental Surgeon, General	14	15	14	14	15	15	15	15
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative		2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Dental Surgeon, Principal	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>
Dental Hygienist	2	4	4	5	5	3	3	3
Dental Hygienist, Senior						2	2	2
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	1	0	1					
Dental Nurse	25	25	24	25	27	26	19	20
Dental Nurse, Senior	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	6
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>CHO 2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>
Orthodontics, Specialist	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3
Dental Surgeon, Senior	6	6	5	6	6	5	5	5
Dental Surgeon, General	16	14	15	14	13	15	14	13
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dental Surgeon, Principal	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
Dental Hygienist	5	5	5	4	3	6	5	6
Dental Hygienist, Senior	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	7	7	6	6	7	7	7	6
Dental Nurse	26	27	29	29	27	27	29	29
Dental Nurse, Senior	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>CHO 3</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Orthodontics, Specialist	5	6	6	6	5	5	5	4
Dental Surgeon, Senior	8	9	8	7	9	7	6	6
Dental Surgeon, General	34	33	30	28	26	28	32	31
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	1	1	1	1	2	6	6	4
Dental Surgeon, Principal	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>
Dental Hygienist	6	6	7	8	7	4	4	3

Dental Hygienist, Senior						3	3	3
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)	1	34	33	30	27	2	2	1
Dental Nurse	64	33	31	32	33	60	60	57
Dental Nurse, Senior	11	11	11	12	12	11	12	13
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>CHO 4</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>128</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Orthodontics, Specialist	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	4
Dental Surgeon, Senior	4	6	6	6	6	5	4	4
Dental Surgeon, General	20	19	19	20	20	21	19	20
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	2	2	2	3	1	2	4	4
Dental Surgeon, Principal	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>
Dental Hygienist	7	7	6	7	7	5	5	5
Dental Hygienist, Senior						2	2	2
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
Dental Surgery Assistant (unqualified)		39	39	1	1	1	1	1
Dental Nurse	41	5	6	42	40	39	40	40
Dental Nurse, Senior	7	7	7	8	8	7	8	8
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>CHO 5</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Orthodontics, Specialist	12	11	10	8	9	11	10	10
Dental Surgeon, Senior	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dental Surgeon, General	12	10	11	10	11	9	8	9
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dental Surgeon, Principal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
Dental Hygienist	3	3	3	3	5	5	5	4
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Dental Nurse	37	39	34	36	38	40	40	35
Dental Nurse, Senior	4	6	6	6	7	7	8	7
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>CHO 6</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>74</b>
Dental Surgeon, Senior	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	5
Dental Surgeon, General	26	26	23	25	22	21	20	17
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dental Surgeon, Principal	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Dental Surgeon, Clinical Grade I	1	1						
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>
Dental Hygienist	3	5	5	4	3	5	5	4
Dental Hygienist, Senior						0		
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Dental Nurse	46	48	47	45	45	39	35	36
Dental Nurse, Senior	8	9	8	8	9	8	7	5
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>CHO 7</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>73</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Orthodontics, Specialist	5	6	7	7	7	7	7	6

Dental Surgeon, Senior	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4
Dental Surgeon, General	17	17	16	18	16	16	14	14
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	2	2	4	3	4	3	4	3
Dental Surgeon, Principal	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	4
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>
Dental Hygienist	12	12	12	13	12	8	7	10
Dental Hygienist, Senior						3	2	3
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>
Dental Nurse	58	55	54	56	54	49	55	51
Dental Nurse, Senior	9	10	9	10	9	8	9	9
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>CHO 8</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>103</b>
Consultant Orthodontist							1	2
Orthodontics, Specialist	5	4	4	4	5	4	5	4
Dental Surgeon, Senior	3	5	3	3	4	3	4	6
Dental Surgeon, General	19	19	20	20	19	21	21	18
Dental Surgeon, Senior Administrative	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	2
Dental Surgeon, Principal	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>
Dental Hygienist	6	6	6	6	6	4	4	4
Dental Hygienist, Senior						2	2	2
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Dental Nurse	41	42	39	40	38	46	46	42
Dental Nurse, Senior	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>CHO 9</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>90</b>
Consultant Orthodontist	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Orthodontics, Specialist	8	8	8	9	8	7	7	7
<b>Medical &amp; Dental</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Dental Hygienist	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Health &amp; Social Care Professionals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Dental Nurse	15	17	17	17	18	21	20	21
Dental Nurse, Senior	4	4	4	4	3	4	4	2
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Saolta University Hospital Care</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>
Dental Nurse	1							
<b>Patient &amp; Client Care</b>	<b>1</b>							
<b>South/South West Hospital Group</b>	<b>1</b>							
<b>TOTAL for Health Service Executive</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>786</b>