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Kennedy calls for National Treatment Purchase Fund to be made available for orthodontic treatment

DUBLIN NORTH'S Fianna Fail TD Michael Kennedy has called on the HSE to immediately rectify the situation which sees youngsters wait almost three years for orthodontic treatment.

Deputy Kennedy said: "The HSE is stretched to such an extent that children and young teenagers are being forced to wait months for assessment and then years afterwards to eventual treatment, according to the severity of their conditions. Private orthodontic treatment is extremely expensive, so there is little opportunity for parents to rectify the situation on their own."

"Because many of the procedures needed are not urgent, the HSE does not seem to consider orthodontic treatment as a high priority – meanwhile children's conditions become more and more uncomfortable, debilitating and in some cases, extremely painful."

"I am calling on the Minister for Health to compel the HSE to address this situation immediately as thousands of children across the country are being left in awful pain."

"The HSE has confirmed to me that the National Treatment Purchase Fund is currently unavailable to patients waiting substantial amounts of time for treatment although the option is being explored in coming months – I would urge officials to expedite these talks to ensure that the thousands of youngsters on these waiting lists are not left unnecessarily in pain," concluded Deputy Kennedy.