

National Report on Activities – 2025

General Information

Country: Ireland

Association: Irish Dental Association

Reporting Period: January–December 2025

Contact Person (Name / Position): Kieran O'Connor, NLO.....

Email Address: kieranoconnor353@gmail.com.....

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Instructions

Please complete this form clearly and concisely. Where applicable, you may attach additional documents or provide references. If a section is not applicable, please indicate "N/A".

1. Changes in the Association and Its Organisation

Please describe any significant structural, strategic, leadership, or membership-related changes during 2025.

2025 was a year of significant progress for the Irish Dental Association (IDA) marked by strengthened advocacy, and increased national visibility for the issues facing the dental profession.

At the end of December 2025 after many years of advocacy by the Irish Dental Association the Irish Government approved policy proposals from the Minister for Health to amend the Dentists Act 1985 in order to introduce statutory Continuing Professional Development obligations for dentists. The changes will provide a new framework for the obligations and powers of dentists, the regulator and employers. The changes are intended to recognise and support dentists in their commitment to ethical obligations and lifelong professional development.

2. Main Concerns

Please list the three most important concerns currently facing your association.

- a) There is an anticipation that rollout of National Oral Health Policy is about to commence and that the Association will be called to the talks table soon. The strong advocacy and media work by our representatives means that the Association can enter discussions with a firm sense of confidence and resolve.
- b) Reform of Dental legislation
- c) Workforce sustainability

3. Key Discussion Points

Please indicate three topics or issues you would like to discuss at international level.

- a) Workforce sustainability and planning
- b) Ageing Population
- c) Continue the focus on the role of sugar in poor oral and general health

4. Trends and Developments

Please describe relevant trends and developments in the following areas:

a) Professional Politics

Legislative reform and workforce and training shortages are the dominant issues. The Association is advocating for recognition of nine additional specialties apart from the current Oral Surgery and Orthodontics

b) Health and Social Politics

The Dental Treatment Services Scheme crisis continues and School Screening gaps have grown. The funding deficit for dental care continues, The Association has been central to debate regarding the crisis in public dental services.

c) Educational Politics

