

**STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
ON TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2011**

Access to Dental Services for local residents

I have recently met with Senator Breckon to discuss his proposition P.170/2011 which seeks to improve access to dental services for local residents.

After a positive discussion, Senator Breckon has agreed to withdraw his proposition on the basis that I will undertake to ensure that two issues identified by the Scrutiny Panel Review of Dental Health Services will be prioritised within my Departmental Business Plan for 2012.

I am pleased that one of my first acts as Minister has been to make this agreement in a spirit of co-operation, confirming the importance of the scrutiny function and that of independent backbenchers.

The Dental Health Services Review was undertaken by the HSSH Panel, under the chairmanship of Deputy De Sousa. The report SR.12/2010 was published on 8 November 2010. A joint response from Health and Social Services and Social Security Department was published on 20th December 2010.

The Review noted that support with dental costs was available to teenagers through the Dental Fitness Scheme and to pensioners through the 65+ Health Scheme. However, neither of these schemes have been reviewed for a number of years.

I will undertake to review the provision of assistance with dental costs under both these schemes during 2012. The reviews will also consider the administration of the two schemes.

Senator Breckon has agreed to play an active part in the two reviews that will take place in 2012 and I look forward to working with him during the year.