The Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) is a rating system used to determine whether under 18s qualify for NHS orthodontic treatment.

**What is the IOTN?**
During your NHS assessment, your IOTN certified orthodontist will look at two aspects of your teeth:
- **Dental Health**: This includes factors like bite problems, malocclusion, and overall oral health.
- **Appearance of the Smile**: This focuses on how your teeth look when you smile, including issues like crowding, spacing, and aesthetics.

**Qualifying for NHS Treatment**
If your teeth are borderline, your orthodontist will assess the appearance of your smile to decide whether you are eligible for NHS treatment.

**Grading System**

- **Grade 1 (Not Eligible)**: Minor irregularities that are not severe enough to require treatment.
- **Grade 2 (Mild to Moderate)**: Mild prominence, mild open bite, or mildly crooked or crowded teeth.
- **Grade 3 (Borderline)**: More severe irregularities that may require treatment for dental health reasons.
- **Grade 4 (Eligible)**: Severe irregularities or conditions that require orthodontic intervention.
- **Grade 5 (Teeth that don't have space to erupt naturally)**: Conditions like severe prominence or extensive missing teeth.

**Aesthetic Component**
If you receive a dental health grade of 3, your orthodontist will then look at the appearance of your smile and give you a second score of between 1 and 10. This is done using a set of ten images as a reference point for attractiveness.

- **Grade 1**: Good news! Your teeth are practically perfect.
- **Grade 2**: You have a moderate irregularity, which may require treatment for dental health reasons.
- **Grade 3**: You have a more severe irregularity and are entitled to NHS orthodontic treatment.
- **Grade 4**: You have a serious irregularity, which requires NHS orthodontic treatment for dental health reasons.

If you do not qualify for NHS treatment, your orthodontist will be able to discuss self-funded private options with you.

**Waiting List**
If you are eligible for NHS care, you might need to join a waiting list before you can start your treatment. This is because orthodontists are only given a limited amount of NHS funding each year.

**Website**
For more information, visit www.totalorthodontics.co.uk/IOTN.