

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL CONCERNS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to A&E and dental concerns.

Question:

- Please provide the following information for calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, broken down by year -
 - The number of adults who presented at A+E departments due to a dental concern
 - The number of children presented at A+E departments due to a dental concern

Answer:

Calendar year	Age <16	Age 16+
2019	444	1,243
2020	368	1,125
2021	437	1,076
2022	480	1,546
2023	393	1,619

Notes:

- Attendances counted in the calendar year of arrival date
- Attendances were counted where fulfilling one or both of the following conditions:
 - a K00-K08 diagnosis was coded for the attendance
 - presenting complaint notes match 'dental' or 'teeth' or 'tooth'
AND notes do not match 'teething' or 'teeth marks'
AND notes do not indicate swallowing or ingesting a dental object
AND notes do not indicate Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease

3. The search conditions detailed may include attendances where the primary complaint was not dental, for example, an overdose of dental medication.
4. WGH A&E department does not code diagnoses.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive