

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL WAITS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dental waits within NHS Lothian.

Question:

1. What the (a) longest and (b) average waiting time has been in each year since 2015 for all new outpatients for dental specialities.

Answer:

a) Outpatient 90th Percentile Wait (weeks) by Year Removed

Specialty	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
COMMUNITY DENTAL PRACTICE			13.93	25.14	34.14	51.14	66.91	30.71	38.90
ORAL MEDICINE					29.50	55.14	25.71	51.57	53.71
ORAL SURGERY					23.63	57.71	74.00	16.43	25.71
ORTHODONTICS					152.29	44.43	19.00	16.43	35.59
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY					95.34	54.29	63.86	15.20	9.29
RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY					23.43	55.43	72.00	9.14	9.86

b) Outpatient Mean Wait (weeks) by Year Removed

Specialty	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
COMMUNITY DENTAL PRACTICE			7.41	9.37	21.51	23.85	23.63	13.56	19.81
ORAL MEDICINE					19.88	32.93	15.10	25.82	25.43
ORAL SURGERY					39.02	25.77	34.14	9.14	14.12
ORTHODONTICS					49.81	26.80	9.80	8.28	19.94
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY					85.74	26.52	30.83	6.92	6.03
RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY					11.30	27.63	31.41	5.39	4.58

Information prior to 2018 is not held. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information.

Question:

2. What the (a) longest and (b) average waiting time has been in each year since 2015 for all inpatient or day case admissions for dental specialities. Please provide a breakdown by speciality where possible.

Answer:

a) Inpatient 90th Percentile Wait (weeks) by Year Removed

Specialty	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
COMMUNITY DENTAL PRACTICE						50.51	29.69	36.33	39.19
ORAL SURGERY	11.29	11.57	16.29	16.89	17.89	58.36	83.63	116.29	106.71
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY	12.00	11.14	11.43	11.71	12.00	33.71	50.21	48.10	67.71

b) Inpatient Mean Wait (weeks) by Year Removed

Specialty	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
COMMUNITY DENTAL PRACTICE						24.82	12.39	18.11	23.64
ORAL SURGERY	7.45	8.01	9.55	10.32	10.50	35.73	53.25	54.46	60.18
PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY	9.35	7.96	8.59	8.68	7.96	12.74	14.78	22.95	30.39

Notes

- includes all waits that were marked as done and removed from the list in the year listed in the table.
- includes all waits in the following dental specialities (national Specialty codes)

D1	COMMUNITY DENTAL PRACTICE
D3	ORAL SURGERY
D4	ORAL MEDICINE
D5	ORTHODONTICS
D6	RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY
D8	PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

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.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive