

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REVIEW – DENTAL PROCEDURES

I write in response to your request for review of NHS Lothian's response to your Freedom of Information request about dental procedures in NHS Lothian.

Having discussed your request and our response of 29 February 2024 further, I can respond as follows:

Original Request and Response:

### Question:

*Please can you provide the following information for Edinburgh Dental Institute for 6th April 2022 to 5th April 2023: a) The top 10 OPCS-4 codes utilised; b) The number of each above procedure carried out.*

### Answer:

*I am advised that procedures for the Edinburgh Dental Institute are not coded on our electronic patient management system. OPCS 4 codes are appointment type and are not coded in the dental service to specify the type of treatment carried out, but to specify new patients, returning patients etc.*

*Information about procedures carried out will be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.*

### Review Request:

I am looking for a list of the top 10 OPCS-4 codes, by number recorded, by Edinburgh Dental Institute between 6th April 2022 - 5th April 2023. If 10 have not been recorded during this period I am looking for the OPCS-4 codes that have been recorded and the number of each recorded.

### Review Response:

Our initial response which stated that OPCS 4 codes were used in the Edinburgh Dental Institute to record appointment type rather than procedure was not correct. I apologise that this information was provided wrongly. However, OPCS 4 codes are not routinely used in the Dental Institute. It is not a requirement for most outpatient appointments to be coded. On occasion a procedure has been coded when the clinician has selected an outcome on the electronic patient record but this is not routine and is not indicative of the numbers of each procedure carried out.

During the period you have requested, only 18 appointments have had an OPCS 4 code attributed to them. Some appointments had more than one code attributed. I have listed below all the codes used with the numbers of patients recoded against each. Again, these codes are not routinely used and therefore do not represent the number or frequency of procedures carried out in the Dental Institute.

I have not released numbers of 5 or fewer in the table, as this information could lead to the identification of the individuals involved. Since we do not have their consent to release their personal data, the information is exempt under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 as to provide it would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018.

<b>OPCS 4 Coding, Edinburgh Dental Institute</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Code description</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
V212	Reduction of Dislocation of Temporomandibular Joint	12
F424	Photography of Mouth	4
F381	Excision of Lesion Of Floor of Mouth	≤5
F203	Biopsy of Lesion of Gingiva	≤5
F421	Biopsy of Lesion of Mouth Nec	≤5
F631	Creation of Impression for Denture	≤5
F202	Excision of Lesion of Gingiva	≤5
F161	Drainage of Abscess of Alveolus of Tooth	≤5
F062	Biopsy of Lesion of Lip	≤5
F562	Manipulative Removal of Calculus from Submandibular Duct	≤5
F633	Adjustment of Denture	≤5
Y821	Local Anaesthetic Nerve Block	≤5
F104	Extraction of Multiple Teeth Nec	≤5
V151	Reduction of Fracture of Alveolus of Mandible	≤5
Y204	Fine Needle Aspiration Noc	≤5
F262	Excision of Frenulum of Tongue	≤5
F281	Excision of Lesion of Palate	≤5
F321	Biopsy of Lesion of Palate	≤5
F632	Fitting of Denture	≤5

<b>OPCS 4 Coding, Edinburgh Dental Institute</b>		
<b>Code</b>	<b>Code description</b>	<b>Number of patients</b>
F561	Manipulative Removal of Calculus From Parotid Duct	≤5
F103	Lower Dental Clearance	≤5
F163	Packing of Tooth Socket	≤5

If you are not satisfied with this response you still have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner who you can contact at the address below or using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/appeal](http://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.

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Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews, Fife  
KY16 9DS  
Telephone: 01334 464610  
Fax: 01334 464611  
e-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Yours sincerely

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**Freedom of Information Reviewer/**  
**Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, NHS Lothian**  
cc: Executive Nurse Director