

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TOOTH EXTRACTIONS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to tooth extractions within NHS Lothian.

Question:

- Please provide the following information for acute settings in the last five financial years (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24).
 1. The number of children referred for tooth extractions under general anaesthetic
 2. The median ongoing wait for children referred for tooth extractions under general anaesthetic
 3. The longest ongoing wait for children referred for tooth extractions under general anaesthetic
 4. The median completed wait for children referred for tooth extractions under general anaesthetic
 5. The longest completed wait for children referred for tooth extractions under general anaesthetic
 6. The number of children who have had an emergency tooth extraction under general anaesthetic

Answer:

Completed Waits: (Q1, Q4, Q5)		Days Waiting		
Financial Year End	Procedures	Mean	Median	98th Percentile
3/31/2020	1193	62	71	116
3/31/2021	453	106	36	403
3/31/2022	688	1011	63	473
3/31/2023	926	178	135.5	507.5
3/31/2024	813	223	126	563

Ongoing Waits: (Q2, Q3)		Days Waiting	
Patients	Mean	Median	98th Percentile
928	223	199.5	577

Emergency Procedures: (Q6)	
Financial Year End	Procedures
3/31/2020	12
3/31/2021	24
3/31/2022	10
3/31/2023	17
3/31/2024	9

Notes:

The data shown above refer to paediatric tooth extraction under General Anaesthetic.

Note that some patients may have undergone other procedures in theatre in addition to tooth extraction.

The Completed Waits table shows data for entries in the Waiting List for which there was an associated hospital admission that included surgical tooth extraction in theatre.

The Ongoing Waits table shows current Waiting List data for surgical tooth extraction in theatre.

The Emergency Procedures table shows the number of paediatric tooth extractions carried out in emergency theatre sessions.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved we have provided the 9th percentile in the table above rather than an identifiable figure. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

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