

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL SURGERY**

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

After clarification - Would 'oral surgery' be used as a waiting list descriptor, or if not - 'oral and maxillofacial surgery'?

Question:

1. The average waiting time (in weeks) for dental surgery in financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24

Answer:

- a) Inpatient Average Wait (weeks) by Financial Year Removed      b) Outpatient Average Wait (weeks) by Financial Year Removed

	Oral Surgery	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2019-20	12.6	8.2
2020-21	49.0	16.7
2021-22	50.9	13.7
2022-23	59.2	26.6
2023-24	52.9	50

	Oral Surgery	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2019-20	24.5	6.3
2020-21	32.4	6.7
2021-22	26.9	24.7
2022-23	8.7	7.1
2023-24	15.7	10.9

Question:

2. The longest recorded wait (in weeks) for dental surgery in financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Answer:

- a) Inpatient 95th Percentile Wait (weeks) by Financial Year Removed      b) Outpatient 95th Percentile Wait (weeks) by Financial Year Removed

	Oral Surgery	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2019-20	27.2	14.4
2020-21	73.6	46.0

	Oral Surgery	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2019-20	30.0	17.9
2020-21	71.1	55.1

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Interim Chief Executive Jim Crombie  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*



2021-22	85.0	64.6	2021-22	75.1	74.0
2022-23	127.3	95.4	2022-23	17.7	21.9
2023-24	121.7	105.9	2023-24	29.3	30.1

To protect the identity of the individuals involved we have used the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in the table above. 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).

Question:

3. The number of cancelled dental surgeries in financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Answer:

a) Inpatient Cancelled Surgeries by Financial Year Removed

	Oral Surgery	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2019-20	37	158
2020-21	36	86
2021-22	38	73
2022-23	21	85
2023-24	16	80

b) Outpatient Cancelled Surgeries by Financial Year Removed

	Oral Surgery	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
2019-20	395	1,231
2020-21	843	434
2021-22	1775	1,058
2022-23	1190	1,088
2023-24	1087	830

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](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.

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