

Date 29/04/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 9935

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dental health problems.

Question:

1. In the period January 1 to December 31, 2024, how many times did patients present at your A&E departments (to include major A&E departments and minor injuries units) with dental health problems?

Answer:

There were 668 presentations.

Question:

2. Can the numbers please be broken down by type of problem e.g. toothache, abscess/infection, loss of teeth, broken or loose teeth, gum disease/bleeding from the mouth, decay.

Answer:

Condition	Attendances
Dental abscess	484
Dental caries	66
Gingivitis / gingivostomatitis	20
Temporomandibular joint disorder	50
No dental diagnosis completed	48

Question:

3. Please can you provide for the following calander years 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, how many times did patients present at your A&E departments (to include major A&E departments and minor injuries units) with dental health problems?

Headquarters
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox
*Lothian NHS Board is the common
name of Lothian Health Board*

Answer:

Calendar year	Attendances
2020	662
2021	574
2022	649
2023	585

Notes:

1. Attendances counted in the calendar year of arrival date
2. Attendances were counted where fulfilling either of the following conditions:
 - a) a K00-K08 diagnosis was coded for the attendance
 - b) patient attended WGH
 - AND 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 or foreign body
 - AND notes do not indicate Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease
3. WGH Minor Injuries 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
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive