

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PUBLIC DENTAL SERVICE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to NHS Lothian's Public Dental Service.

Question:

1. The total amount spent by the board on providing a public dental service, for the financial year 2024/2025.

Answer:

The total spend in 2024/25 was £8,678,691.

Question:

2. The number of full time equivalent dentists employed by the health board to provide PDS, for the financial year 2024/2025.

Answer:

33.38 WTE dentists are employed.

Question:

3. The number of procedures carried out by the PDS, for the financial year 2024/2025, if known.

Answer:

The number of appointments provided by Public Dental Service for 2024 and 2025 is given in the table below. More than one treatment may be completed in one appointment.

Appointments with the Public Dental Service, NHS Lothian	
Year	Number of appointments
2024	39,083
2025 (to 16 May 2025)	9,346

Question:

4. The number of patients treated by the PDS, for the financial year 2024/2025, if known.

**Answer:**

The table in answer to question 3 above shows the number of appointments. It is not possible to break this down to the number of individual patients this represents, as to provide this 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.

**Question:**

5. The number of referrals and waiting list size, for the financial year 2024/2025, if known.

**Answer:**

The 2024/25 waiting list size for the Public Dental Service special care and paediatric lists are shown in the table below:

Public Dental Service waiting lists 2024/25, NHS Lothian	
Waiting list	Number of patients
Special Care	2,784
Paediatric	2,624

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs**  
Cc: Chief Executive