

Date 30/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10294

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CHILD SMILE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the Child Smile Infants' Tooth Brushing scheme.

Question:

1. What is the projected annual cost saving generated by scrapping the Child Smile Infants' Tooth Brushing scheme specifically, not generally, in Our Lady of Lourdes Primary school on 18th June 2025? (Brushes, toothpaste and man-hours for administering the annual set-up). In summary: what was the cost of running the scheme before, and what is the predicted cost of running the scheme now that Our Lady of Lourdes is no longer included?

Answer:

Cost per child per academic year to participate in national toothbrushing programme
- approximately £18.00 per child

Specific to Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School is located within a SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) category 1 area, therefore it should be part of the national toothbrushing programme. The school was excluded due to an administrative error. The school will be reinstated in the programme with immediate effect. A member of the Oral Health Improvement Team will contact the school at the beginning of the new academic year 2025/26 to discuss next steps. Please accept our apologies for this oversight.

Further information is available at the link below on recent studies about the benefit of toothbrushing programmes in the education setting.

[Research Publications – Childsmile](#)

Question:

2. What other schools are affected by this cut in service?

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:

The national Childsmile supervised toothbrushing programme is offered to at least 20% of P1 and P2 classes in schools situated in areas with high levels of need, as well as children in the nursery setting. The most up to date SIMD information is used to identify which schools are included in the programme on an annual basis.

The overall aims of the programme include improving the quality of the supervised toothbrushing programmes in nurseries and schools.

Question:

3. In percentage terms, what is the trend of recorded tooth decay observed in pupils in Our Lady of Lourdes over the past five years?

Answer:

Following NDIP inspections, letters are given to parents based on the following criteria:

Category A – should arrange to see the dentist as soon as possible, if the child has not had a recent appointment, on account of severe decay or abscess.

Category B – should arrange to see the dentist in the near future, if the child has not had a recent appointment, on account of evidence of current or previous decay.

Category C – no obvious decay experience but should continue to see the family dentist on a regular basis.

We are working with the families of children falling into the above **Category A** to ensure their child is registered and attending a dentist, providing additional support to enable this if it is required.

Table to show the number and percentage of letters split by obvious dental decay (letters A& B) and no obvious caries (letter C) sent out to children at Our Lady's of Lourdes Primary School

Year	Letter	24-25	23-24	22-23	21-22*	20-21	19-20
P1	A & B	5< (45%)*	5<(36%)*	5<45%	9 (43%)	**	9 (50%)
	C	6 (55%)	9 (64%)	6 (55%)	12 (57%)	**	9 (50%)
P2	A & B				12 (46%)		
	C				14 (54%)		
P7	A & B	8 (35%)	5<	6 (33%)		**	6 (29%)
	C	15 (65%)	12	12 (67%)		**	15 (71%)

Children who are absent/ did not participate in the inspection are excluded from the data below

*Post pandemic, in 2021/22 data were collected for P1 and P2 children rather than P1 & P7

** No data collected due to the pandemic

*** Due to the small numbers of children in the school numbers 'data masking' has taken place- i.e. if '5 or less children' are in a category it has been recorded as '5,'

Further information, including the annual National Dental Inspection Programme Reports, is available at <http://ndip.scottishdental.org>

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown 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).

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
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive