

Date 30/07/2025
Your Ref
Our Ref 10296

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL

I write in response to your request for information in relation to the Open Wide Scheme and Caring for Smiles.

Question:

1. The total number of patients seen by the Open Wide scheme in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.
2. The cost to operate the Open Wide scheme in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Answer:

- Open Wide is a population oral health improvement programme which offers oral health advice and support to adults with additional care needs and their carers on a group and individual basis and delivers training in oral care to staff working in health and social care services. The programme does not provide direct patient care but delivers oral health improvement activity.
- There is no defined budget for delivery of the Open Wide programme which is delivered as part of wider oral health improvement activity.
- Patient numbers are not held in a centrally extractable format. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

Question:

1. The total number of patients seen by the Caring for Smiles scheme in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.
2. The cost to operate the Caring for Smiles scheme in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

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:

- Caring for Smiles is a population oral health improvement programme which offers oral health training, advice, and support to care home staff. The programme does not provide direct patient care but delivers oral health improvement activity within care establishments.
- There is no defined budget for delivery of the Caring for Smiles programme which is delivered as part of wider oral health improvement activity.
- Patient numbers are not held in a centrally extractable format. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be necessary to review all case files relating to patients over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost.

I am sorry I cannot help 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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive

