

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTISTRY**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dentistry.

**Question:**

1. Confirmation of whether or not board receives an annual report of sorts regarding NHS dentistry. In other words, a report or body of analysis that provides an overview of a year in terms of dental treatment, patient dental health and figures regarding treatment.
2. If so please provide a copy of that annual report/analysis for the last five years.

Please note I am referring to document/briefing material which informs the board about the specific details of dental treatment of the board, such as how many patients were treated, emerging trends, potential issues etc.

3. Please provide the latest document or analysis specifically regarding tooth decay.

**Answer:**

1.	<p><u>PHHP Response</u>: The NHS Board does not receive an annual report regarding NHS dentistry. Some details are included on the Publications pages of the Public Health Scotland website under the heading of primary care <a href="#">Publications - Public Health Scotland</a></p> <p>This information does not capture private patients or NHS patients choosing to pay for private treatment.</p>
2.	<p>The NHS Board does not receive an annual report.</p>
3.	<p>As above, the NHS Board does not receive an annual report. Public Health Scotland publish the National Dental Inspection Programme Report based on dental inspections in the school setting. <a href="#">National dental inspection programme 2025 - National dental inspection programme - Publications - Public Health Scotland</a></p> <p>There is also a national annual report for Childsmile, Scotland's oral health improvement programme for children. <a href="#">Childsmile</a></p>

This information is exempt under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002  
- Information otherwise accessible

(1) Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under section 1(1) is exempt information.

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**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive