

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL PATIENTS

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

Question:

1. The total number of NHS dental patients registered with a NHS dentist under the board.

Answer:

This information is not held by NHS Lothian. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formally I must advise that we do not hold this information. Some details are included on the Publications pages of the Public Health Scotland website under the heading of primary care [Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

Question:

2. The total number of patients believed to living under the board but not registered with an NHS dental practice.

Answer:

This information is not held by NHS Lothian (Section 17) and some patients will be registered privately. As above some details are included on the Publications pages of the Public Health Scotland website under the heading of primary care [Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

Question:

3. The number of NHS dental patients who have not had a dental appointment in the last

- (i) 12 months
- (ii) 24 months
- (iii) 36 months
- (iiii) 48 months
- (iiiii) 5 Years or more

For each figure above, please, if possible, reveal what they are in terms of the % of the overall

amount of patients under the board. So for example state how many patients haven't had an appointment in 12 months and how many people that is within the overall number of patients under the board.

Answer:

This information is not held by NHS Lothian (Section )17. As above some details are included on the Publications pages of the Public Health Scotland website under the heading of primary care [Publications - Public Health Scotland](#)

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 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](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.nhslotthian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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