

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL PRACTICES

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

Question:

1. Confirmation of whether or not you record when a dental practice that provides NHS dentistry no longer provides NHS dentistry.

Answer:

We do not formally record when a dental practice ceases to provide General Dental Services. Under The National Health Service (General Dental Services) (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (as amended), there is a requirement for a Health Board to maintain a dental list. The NHS Lothian dental list is comprised of dentists who are listed to provide General Dental Services at a specified address. If a dentist or dentists withdraw from the dental list in respect of that address, they will be removed from this list.

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) regulate fully private practices.

Question:

2. Confirm whether or not you record the reason as to why practices stop providing NHS dentistry (closing, retirement of dentist, dentist deciding to just offer private dental services etc).

Answer:

As above. If a dentist withdraws from the dental list, they are required to provide 3 months' notice to the Health Board, but they are not obliged under The General Dental Regulations 2010 (as amended) to give a reason for withdrawal.

Question:

3. A breakdown in the last six years of how many dental practices in Scotland stopped providing NHS dentistry (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 so far)

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:

We are unable to provide this information. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formlly I must advise that we do not hold this information.

Question:

4. If possible, please also provide a breakdown according to the reason why the practices stopped providing NHS dentistry.

Answer:

We are unable to provide this information. As per Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 formlly I must advise that we do not hold this 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. 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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive