

Date 10/04/2026  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 11293

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL COSTS

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

### Question:

- I am an NHS Patient and have some questions regarding how much a Scale and Polish is meant to cost under NHS treatment. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in demystifying the NHS Scotland dental prices.

### Answer:

The NHS Inform website is a good source of information about receiving dental treatment in NHS Scotland and sets out patient charges, here is the link : [Dental treatment | NHS inform](#). As you will see, the usual NHS fee for a check-up and preventive advice (which can include a scale and polish if deemed necessary) is £17.32 and there is a cap on patient charges of £384 per course of NHS treatment.

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.

It is worth noting that to obtain valid consent for any course of treatment, whether NHS or Private, a dentist is required to confirm all treatment options, including costs, and the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

I hope the publicly available information 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

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*



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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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