

Date 21/04/2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11323

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

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL WAITS

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

Question:

1. What the (a) longest and (b) average waiting time has been in each year since 2023 for all new outpatients under the age of 18 for dental specialties?
2. What the (a) longest and (b) average waiting time has been in each year since 2023 for all inpatient or day case admissions under the age of 18 for dental specialties?

Answer:

Please see enclosed spreadsheet.

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the spreadsheet provided. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018). For the same reason we cannot provide detail on individual longest waits.

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. 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.

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

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
Enc.

Year	SPECIALTY	SERVICE	PRIORITY	Completed Waits	Average Wait (weeks)
2023	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Biopsy New	Routine	5<	6
2023	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Routine New	Routine	93	20
2023	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Urgent New	Urgent	21	4.8
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Hypodontia AYP NP	Routine	42	21.5
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Hypodontia Paediatric Dentistry NP	Routine	56	19
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Assessment New	Routine	91	5.5
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Emergency New	Routine	5<	0.1
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Emergency New	Urgent	6	0.3
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD RHCYP Assessment New	Routine	28	5.2
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD RHCYP Assessment New	Urgent	<5	2.2
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Core	Routine	456	4.9
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Core	Urgent	7	0
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Emergency 30	Routine	5<	0
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Emergency 30	Urgent	37	1.5
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Specialist	Routine	633	6.3
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Specialist	Urgent	5<	1.9
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Trauma	Routine	55	3
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Trauma	Urgent	65	1.1
2023	Restorative Dentistry	Restorative New	Routine	37	8
2023	Restorative Dentistry	Restorative New	Urgent	5<	1.5
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Biopsy New	Routine	8	7.7
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Biopsy New	Urgent	<5	5.7
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Routine New	Routine	89	24.2
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Routine New	Urgent	5<	18.4
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Urgent New	Urgent	8	1.8
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD A&SN New 30	Routine	5<	1.9
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD A&SN New 30	Urgent	5<	2.9
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Assessment New	Routine	1240	11.3
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Assessment New	Urgent	13	7.5
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Emergency New	Routine	7	0.1
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Emergency New	Urgent	180	1.1
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD RHCYP Assessment New	Routine	93	4.9
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD RHCYP Assessment New	Urgent	10	2.6
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Core	Routine	5<	7
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dentistry NP Trauma	Routine	5<	2.6
2024	Restorative Dentistry	Restorative New	Routine	17	6.3
2024	Restorative Dentistry	Restorative New	Urgent	5<	3.4
2025	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Biopsy New	Routine	12	11.5
2025	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Routine New	Routine	99	22.3
2025	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	OS Urgent New	Urgent	14	13
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD A&SN New 30	Routine	6	1.3
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD A&SN New 30	Urgent	8	0.8
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Assessment New	Routine	1006	9.5
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Assessment New	Urgent	8	1.6
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Emergency New	Routine	8	0.4
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD Emergency New	Urgent	173	0.9
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD RHCYP Assessment New	Routine	79	3.6
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	PDD RHCYP Assessment New	Urgent	11	3.6
2025	Restorative Dentistry	Restorative New	Routine	18	10.6
2025	Restorative Dentistry	Restorative New	Urgent	5<	3.6

Year	SPECIALTY	LOCAL_PROCEDURE	PRIORITY	Completed Waits	Average Wait (weeks)
2023	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	14	64.9
2023	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	5<	7.9
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	5<	61.1
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Local Procedure Code - to be updated	Routine	92	13.1
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Local Procedure Code - to be updated	Urgent	5<	4.5
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Inter)	Routine	5<	20.4
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	613	41.8
2023	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	249	8.9
2023	Special Care Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	5<	18.3
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	12	53.7
2024	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	5<	10.5
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	5<	57.1
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	715	44.8
2024	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	238	7.8
2024	Special Care Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	5<	40.3
2024	Special Care Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	5<	17.4
2025	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	26	34.3
2025	Oral Surgery - Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	5<	7.9
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Inter)	Routine	5<	37.8
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	913	43.9
2025	Paediatric Dentistry	Paediatric Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	239	7.2
2025	Special Care Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Routine	5<	66.1
2025	Special Care Dentistry	Dental Surgery (Minor)	Urgent	5<	15.1