

Date 28 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11859

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL SERVICES

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Dental Services.

Question:

1. The answer to my previous question 1 refers to pausing new referrals "until there was surgical throughput and capacity". Does that mean that that throughput and capacity still doesn't exist?
2. What additional resources, human and otherwise, are needed to create sufficient surgical throughput and capacity (assuming that "no" is the answer to my first question)?
3. Are you saying that the number of consultants makes no difference to the treatment that can be offered, and will not affect the decision to reopen the pathway?
4. How many other WTE doctors are there?
5. How big is the "available budget"?
6. When was the available budget last decided?
7. Who made that decision?
8. How much bigger would the available budget have to be before the pathway could be reopened?

Answer:

1.	Throughput of existing patients is still happening and we are using the current capacity that we have.
2.	There is sufficient surgical capacity to meet current demand into the surgical stage of what is a long and complex clinical pathway.
3.	Yes, this is correct
4.	There are 2 Orthodontic Therapists totalling 1.8WTE, 1 Orthodontic registrar (1WTE)
5.	The Orthodontic consultant clinical staffing budget is £527K
6.	March 2026
7.	Financial Accountant and Clinical Service Manager
8.	There is sufficient staffing budget for the pathway. The relevant Directors for the service will be meeting in the near future to discuss the current current position and when safe reopening of the service may occur.

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.

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