Lothian NHS Board

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www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Date: 10/11/2026
Our Ref: 12035
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinfomation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DENTAL PRACTICES

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

Question:

For each calendar year 2023, 2024, 2025, and the most recent date for which data is available in 2026:

1. The number of dental practices within the Board area that

a) ceased providing NHS dental services entirely; and/or

Answer:

Please see the response to your question 6 below for dental practices which closed during this period.

Question:

b) terminated, surrendered, or handed back an NHS dental contract or equivalent arrangement.

Answer:

None during this period.

Question:

2. The number of dental practices that reduced the level of NHS dental services they provide, including: a) reducing NHS patient capacity; b) reducing NHS clinical sessions; or c) otherwise restricting NHS provision, where such information is held.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold this information.

Question:

3. Where recorded, please provide any reasons given by practices for:

a) ceasing to provide NHS dental services; or

Answer:

Please see the response to your question 6 below for dental practices which closed during this period.

Question:

b) reducing NHS dental provision.

Answer:

NHS Lothian does not hold this information.

Question:

4. Please provide the number of NHS dental practices operating within the Board area at the end of each year (or at the most recent date available in 2026).

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below:

Dental practices in NHS Lothian board area	
Year	**Number of practices operating**
2023	175
2024	177
2025	176
2026	181

Question:

5. Please provide the number of NHS dental practices accepting new NHS patients at the end of each year (or at the most recent date available in 2026), if held.

Answer:

There are currently 102 NHS dental practices in Lothian accepting new NHS patients. We are not able to provide details for previous years as this information is not recorded annually but monitored by regularly asking practices for updated information.

Question:

6. Please provide the number of NHS dental practices within the Board area that closed permanently during each year.

Answer:

The information you have requested is detailed in the table below.

Dental practice closures in NHS Lothian Board Area	
Year	**Closures**
2023	0
2024	1 – closed
	1 – closed and relocated
	1 – closed and transferred patients to a sister practice
2025	1 – closed
	3 – closed and transferred patients to a sister practice
2026	1 – closed and transferred patients to a sister practice

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 https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
Cc: Chief Executive