Lothian NHS Board

NHS Lothian Headquarters
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Date 16 November 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 12066

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

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – TOOTH EXTRACTION**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to tooth extraction.

Question:

- The number of children (i.e. under 18 years old) who have had a tooth extracted due to tooth decay under general anaesthetic in hospital. Please provide this for the calendar years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 to date.

  The number of children admitted to hospital due to tooth decay. Please provide this for the calendar years as above.

Answer:

**Paediatric Tooth Decay Admissions and Patients**

| Year | Total Admissions | Total Patients | Extraction Admissions | Extraction Patients |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | 855 | 845 | 831 | 825 |
| 2023 | 779 | 772 | 760 | 758 |
| 2024 | 846 | 834 | 818 | 818 |
| 2025 | 1019 | 1005 | 984 | 982 |
| 2026 | 717 | 713 | 698 | 697 |

| Code | Description |
|---|---|
| ICD10 K02 | Dental caries |
| OPCS F09 | Surgical removal of tooth |
| OPCS F10 | Simple extraction of tooth |

Notes:
1. The data are limited to patients under the age of 18 who were admitted to hospital from 01 Jan 2022 onwards.
2. Patients may have been admitted to hospital for various reasons, but the data shown are limited to patients whose admission was assigned IDC10 code K02 (Dental caries) in clinical coding. That is, some

admissions may have been assigned further unrelated ICD10 codes.

3. The number of such admissions which were also assigned an OPCS code of F09 or F10 in clinical coding is given, along with the number of distinct patients. Note that some patients had more than one relevant admission in a single year.

4. The majority of included patients who underwent a tooth extraction procedure had a general anaesthetic (at least 95%), but a small number of patients may have received a different mode of anaesthesia.

5. Note that the clinical coding on which this analysis is based may not be availble for around 6 to 12 weeks after a relevant admission. The data shown for 2026 does not therefore include more recent cases which are still awaiting coding.

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

Yours sincerely

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