

Freedom of Information request 501-22

Request

1. The Child Smile website says, “within priority schools, fluoride varnish application should be arranged for twice a year”. Please provide confirmation of whether or not the fluoride varnish application was offered twice a year to each priority school and every eligible child within the last five financial years (2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23)
2. The Childsmile website says “20% of children in each year group attending nurseries and primary schools are targeted for Childsmile”. Please provide a breakdown of how many children within that targeted 20% were offered Childsmile services in the last five financial years (2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23).
3. How many nurseries and primary schools have participated in Childsmile within the last five financial years (2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23), with a breakdown?
4. How many children were eligible to participate in Childsmile within the last five financial years, and how many actually participated (2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23)?

Clarification (05/10/22):

- Yes, academic year is acceptable if that's the way it's recorded.
- In Question 3 I am asking for a breakdown by year of many nurseries and primary schools have participated in Childsmile in the last 5 years.
- I would like the information on toothbrushing and fluoride varnish application

Response

1. The NHS Borders information below refers to the Academic Year i.e. August – June of each year:

2018/19 – Yes, the fluoride varnish application was offered twice a year to each priority school and every eligible child.

2019/20- Yes, the fluoride varnish application was offered to all schools and nurseries until we received word to stop the programme in March 2020 due to Covid-19. Some schools, because of the onset of the pandemic, did not receive a visit but they were offered it.

2020/21 – No, the COVID-19 pandemic halted all work in schools, therefore, no fluoride varnish applications were able to be offered.

2021/22 – Authorisation was received from the Chief Dental Officer in August 2021 that fluoride varnish applications could be remobilised. NHS Borders provided a partial and phased return for the 2021/2022 Academic Year due to COVID disruption (lockdowns, isolation, school closures, staffing etc).

The offer was initially made to the most deprived schools - 2 priority schools were offered 2 applications, and a further 3 priority schools were offered 1 application over the year.

2022/2023 – To date, the 1st fluoride varnish applications are in the process of being offered. It is expected that the 2nd applications will also be offered during this Academic Year.

2. Please find the NHS Borders figures for the number of children offered Childsmile services below.

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Nursery	902	762	No Childsmile service due to Covid-19	203	Childsmile service in the process of being offered, therefore there is no data at this time
P1	517	515		131	
P2	582	486		129	
P3	513	539		117	
P4	588	497		134	
P5	566	545		0	
P6	547	533		0	
P7	549	503		0	

3. The number of nurseries and primary schools that have participated in Childsmile under NHS Borders are:

Academic Year	Fluoride Varnish		Toothbrushing	
	Nurseries	Primary Schools	Nurseries	Primary Schools
2018/19	23	24	73/73	56/60
2019/20	23	23	70/70	57/60
2020/21	No Childsmile service due to Covid-19		66/70	3/60
2021/22	4	5	66/70	8/60
2022/23	Childsmile service in the process of being offered therefore there is no data at this time			

4. The number of children eligible to participate in Childsmile and the number of children that participated are:

Academic Year 2018/19	Number of children offered Childsmile services	Number of children eligible for Childsmile services	Number of children receiving at least 1 FVA	Number of children receiving 2 or more FVAs
Nursery	902	817	703	493
P1	517	476	460	404
P2	582	530	514	457
P3	513	467	452	401
P4	588	531	519	468
P5	566	504	486	431
P6	547	476	453	403
P7	549	485	462	407

Academic Year 2019/20	Number of children offered Childsmile services	Number of children eligible for Childsmile services	Number of children receiving at least 1 FVA	Number of children receiving 2 or more FVAs
Nursery	762	672	511	110
P1	515	464	418	114
P2	486	449	424	136
P3	539	496	456	132
P4	497	454	415	125
P5	545	498	460	135
P6	533	473	431	133
P7	503	450	419	142

Academic Year 2020/21	Number of children offered Childsmile services	Number of children eligible for Childsmile services	Number of children receiving at least 1 FVA	Number of children receiving 2 or more FVAs
No Childsmile service due to Covid-19				

Academic Year 2021/22	Number of children offered Childsmile services	Number of children eligible for Childsmile services	Number of children receiving at least 1 FVA	Number of children receiving 2 or more FVAs
Nursery	203	145	123	41
P1	131	114	93	27
P2	129	107	98	33
P3	117	106	90	36
P4	134	120	113	48

Academic Year 2022/23	Number of children offered Childsmile services	Number of children eligible for Childsmile services	Number of children receiving at least 1 FVA	Number of children receiving 2 or more FVAs
Childsmile service in the process of being offered therefore there is no data at this time				

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **501-22** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.