

## Freedom of Information request 638-22

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### Request

1. What are the routes for patients to access NHS dentistry in your area?
2. The total number of NHS dentist practices within the Health and Social Care partnership and the number who are a) taking on new NHS patients b) not taking on new NHS patients (most recent data)
3. The number of dentists within the Health and Social Care partnership who previously provided dental care but have withdrawn their NHS services in the past 12 months.
4. The total number of dentists within the Health and Social Care partnership who provided NHS dental care in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 (to most recent).

### Response

1. The routes for patients to access NHS dentistry are through NHS General Dental Services, Public Dental Services and Hospital Dental Services.
2. There are 16 NHS dentist practices within the Health and Social Care partnership. Please find below the number of NHS dental practices:
  - a) Taking on new patients - 1 and 1 specialist orthodontic practice which is accepting referrals
  - b) Not taking on new patients - 15 practices (some have waiting lists)
3. One dentist has withdrawn their NHS services in the past 12 months please note no NHS patients were de-registered.
4. Please find below the number of dentists within H&SCP who provided NHS dental care in:

2019= 69  
2020= 69  
2021= 62  
2022= 61

Please note that we do not hold information for 2018. This may be obtained from NHS Lothian who manage the dental list on behalf of NHS Borders. Therefore under Section 25 this data is accessible elsewhere.

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](mailto: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 **638-22** 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.