

Freedom of Information request 442-23

Request

For the last three years, where data is available, please could you confirm the following:

1. The total amount spent by the board on providing a public dental service, broken down by year.
2. The number of full-time equivalent dentists employed by the health board to provide PDS, broken down by year.
3. The number of procedures carried out by the PDS, broken down by year, if known.
4. The number of patients treated by the PDS, broken down by year, if known.
5. Details of the locations where PDS services are currently provided.
6. The number of referrals and waiting list size, broken down by year, if known.
7. A summary of the scope of the PDS service currently provided, if held. For example, Fife NHS Trust provide this one: <https://www.nhsfife.org/services/know-who-to-turn-to/public-dental-service/>

Response

1. Please find below the Public Dental Service spend per year:

2022/23 – £3,745,573
2021/22 – £3,569,501
2020/21 – £3,233,791

2. Please find below the number of FTE dentists employed to provide a public dental service per year:

2023 (as at June 2023) - 8.7 WTE
2022 (as at June 2022) – 9.71 WTE
2021 (as at June 2021) – 11.67 WTE

3. This is not information that we are able to pull out from R4 (our electronic patient information system), therefore under Section 17 we are unable to provide.

4. The Public Dental Service does not collect information defined as the number of patients treated. We have however been collating the number of different appointment types provided which is listed below:

From 1 August 2022 to 31 May 2023, the PDS treated the following patients as described below:

- 4,575 examination appointments
 - 8,171 treatment appointments
 - 3,452 emergency appointments
- Total of 16,198 appointments provided to patients in this time frame.

Please note, the PDS have only been collating this following information since August 2022 and are therefore unable to provide information for previous years.

5. Please find below the locations of the Public Dental Service in Borders:

Hawick Dental Centre
Victoria Road
Hawick
TD9 7AH

Coldstream Dental Centre
Kelso Road
Coldstream
TD12 4LQ

Dental Department
Galashiels Health Centre
Currie Road
Galashiels
TD1 2UA

Public Dental Service (Special Care)
Borders General Hospital
Melrose
TD6 9BS

Dental Department
Kelso Health Centre
Inch Road
Kelso
TD5 7LF

Dental Department
Hay Lodge Health Centre
Neidpath Road
Peebles
EH45 8JG

6. The only waiting list held in the Public Dental Service is the number of patients waiting to receive an appointment for treatment and this is only the number of patients waiting rather than the time they have been waiting. This information has only been collected since October 2022 so unable to provide information for previous years therefore under Section 17 of the FOI(S)A it is not held.

The number of patients each month waiting for treatment where as follows:

- October 2022 – 68
- November 2022 – 41
- December 2022 – 153
- January 2023 – 130
- February 2023 – 232
- March 2023 – 132
- April 2023 – 160
- May 2023 – 154

The only referral information held in the Public Dental Service is the number of patients referred to receive treatment with inhalation sedation and general anaesthetic. This information has only been collated since January 2023 and is as shown below:

Month	Total Number of referrals received in each month	Inhalation Sedation Total	Waiting list in months	IV Sedation Patient Total	Waiting List in months
Jan-23	33	11	4	21	9
Feb-23	38	10	5	21	10
Mar-23	58	13	6	19	11
Apr-23	40	21	6	14	10
May-23	34	24	6	15	10

Month	Paeds GA List Total	Waiting list in Months	Adult GA List Total	Waiting List in Months
Jan-23	85	22	7	5
Feb-23	85	23	8	6
Mar-23	90	23	8	6
Apr-23	92	23	11	7
May-23	92	24	9	4

7. The NHS Borders Public Dental Service provides access to routine and specialist NHS dental care across the Scottish Borders.

This may include patients who cannot obtain treatment from a general dental practice, may have additional needs or require specialist services.

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 **442-23** 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.