

## Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

<b>Date received</b>	22/08/2022	<b>Subject</b>	Dental Treatment		
<b>Passed to</b>	Dental	<b>Date passed</b>	23/08/2022	<b>Respond by</b>	12/09/2022
<b>Category</b>	Private	<b>FOI number</b>	2022-338		

**Question/s to be answered**

I am looking for information regarding the number of people attending your Emergency Dental Treatment Centre. As such, can I please request the following in Excel format?

Under FOISA s 12(1), NHS Shetland is not obliged to comply with a request if the estimated cost of doing so exceeds £600. Having reviewed your request, NHS Shetland has determined that the cost of compliance would exceed £600 and so is unable to provide the information requested; we have provided a breakdown of the estimated costs below:

The total time estimated to respond to this request is at least 49.6 hours.

Staff costs are capped at £15.00 per hour and so the cost of responding to this request would be at least  $49.6 \times 15 = £744$  and so this exceeds the cost threshold.

A detail breakdown by question is given below:

1. The number of Emergency Dental Treatment Centres run by your NHS Board, including a) the opening hours; b) eligibility for attending this centre/receiving an appointment; c) the total number of dentists employed, and how many are on shift at one time; the total number of dental nurses employed, and how many are on shift at one time?

Processing the number of dentists on shift for each day would take 6 hours.

2. The total number of patients, with a breakdown by month, requesting an emergency dental appointment at the Emergency Dental Treatment Centre for the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)?
3. The total number of patients receiving an emergency dental appointment for the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)?

Raw data from April 2020 - July 2022 (28 months) is needed, a sample of this was extracted to gauge estimated costs. November 2020 took 47 mins and December 37 mins, for an average time of 42 minutes. Therefore it would take 19.6 hours ( $(42/60) \times 28 = 19.6$ ).

4. The total number of patients not being accepted for an emergency dental appointment for the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23), and the reasons for this?
5. How many of these patients were under 18 years old?

The reports required to give patient ages at the time of appointment would take 10 hours to create.

6. How many of these patients had been seen within the previous 12 months?

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Reports would need to be run for the previous 12 months' appointments for each of the 28 months and then compare these reports with the raw month data above. This would take 12 hours.

7. A breakdown of the dental treatment provided to those patients an emergency dental appointment in the last three financial years (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23)?

Raw data processing would take 2 hours.

8. What is the procedure for discharging someone after receiving emergency dental treatment? Are they referred on to another dental? Is there a follow-up?

Total specified time to respond to request in hours:  $19.6+10+12+2+6=49.6$ .

Q1, Q2, Q4, Q8 would require additional time beyond the above estimations.

NHS Shetland may be able to provide a response to a new, narrower request for which the cost of compliance would not exceed the cost threshold. Please let us know if you would like to submit such a request.

A request for data over a shorter period of time and or reducing the amount of different types of data requested may allow the request to fall below the cost threshold.