

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**  
**Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004**

<b>Date received</b>	19/10/2022	<b>Subject</b>	Dental Services	
<b>Date passed</b>	21/10/2022	<b>Respond by</b>	09/11/2022	
<b>Passed to</b>	Dental	<b>FOI number</b>	2022-440	
<b>Category of information requested</b>	H&SC Delivery - Patient / Clinical Management			

**Question/s to be answered**

1. Can please you inform me of the number of patients seen during first and second lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, by the Public Dental Service?

Note: It should be remembered that Covid regulations restricted certain procedures, clinics and individual surgeries from being used due to the possible generation of virus-spreading aerosols. A limited number of Urgent Dental Care Centres were established across the country to provide a single hub to avoid the potential for spreading the virus at multiple locations. Restrictions on travel meant a greater use of non face-to-face appointments (ie Near Me video and telephone consultations) where such use provided a good and reasonable alternative to putting both patient and staff at risk. Comparisons of data with more 'normal' times should therefore be carried out with caution. Specialist provision, such as orthodontics, is not included.

Dental Covid restrictions were enforced from 18th March 2020, but were loosened, strengthened and amended through time. As this has been a continuing and fluid process, totally separate from travel, shopping and even other areas of health provision, it is difficult to classify with 'Lockdown 1' and 'Lockdown 2' in 2020 as requested. For this reason the figures are provided broken down into months through 2020 for the requestor to divide according to any classification they may be using.

These figures are solely for the NHS Shetland Public Dental Service.

March 2020 (From 18th March incl.)

40 booked appointments (21 h 55 m diary time)

April 2020

57 booked appointments (35 h 40 m diary time)

May 2020

85 booked appointments (46 h 10 m diary time)

June 2020

144 booked appointments (81 h 15 m diary time)

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**  
**Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004**

July 2020

421 booked appointments (298 h 15 m diary time)

August 2020

376 booked appointments (269 h 10 m diary time)

September 2020

489 booked appointments (348 h 10 m diary time)

October 2020

455 booked appointments (333 h 5 m diary time)

November 2020

518 booked appointments (382 h 5 m diary time)

December 2020

474 booked appointments (357 h 0 m diary time)

TOTAL

3059 booked appointments (2172 h 45 m diary time)

2. Could you also inform me of the number of NHS Dental patients that were seen, during the same period, by the independent NHS practice, Lerwick Dental Practice?

In accordance with FOISA s 17(1), NHS Shetland confirms that it does not hold the information requested.

The Lerwick Dental Practice is an Independent Contractor, therefore NHS Shetland is not privy to the information you are requesting.

<http://www.lerwickdentalpractice.co.uk/index.php/practice-info>