

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

Date received	19/10/22	Subject	Orthodontist Service	
Date passed	20/10/22	Respond by	09/11/22	
Passed to	Dental	FOI number	2022-439	
Category of information requested	H&SC Delivery - Patient / Clinical Management			

Question/s to be answered

1. What is the a) longest b) shortest c) average wait time currently for an initial consultation for orthodontic treatment?
2. What is the a) longest b) shortest c) average wait time currently for patients who have received an initial consultation to start orthodontic treatment?
3. What is the a) longest b) shortest c) average delay between the time patients should have braces removed and the date of the braces removal appointment?

I would appreciate it if you could present the data in the following format:

As of 09 November, 2022;			
	longest	shortest	average
wait time currently for an initial consultation for orthodontic treatment	12 weeks	3 weeks	7.5 weeks
wait time currently for patients who have received an initial consultation to start orthodontic treatment	<p>After a recent fundamental review of this service, the primary focus is to complete treatment for those patients currently wearing a brace. This way, all patients (current and future) will only wear a brace as long as necessary.</p> <p>All patients currently seen for initial consultation with our orthodontic consultant are then placed on a Treatment Waiting List (TWL). Patients are then seen in order of priority and not on a 'first-come-first-served' basis'. Therefore it is not possible to provide an estimate of how long patients may be waiting before being seen.</p> <p>This has been introduced so that patients currently in our system (i.e. those already wearing braces) can be seen</p>		

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	<p>more regularly than before the TWL was introduced. This thereby reduces associated risks.</p> <p>Once there is capacity to begin treatment for patients on the TWL, appointments will be offered in order of clinical priority, as advised by the consultant orthodontist.</p>
delay between the time patients should have braces removed and the date of the braces removal appointment	<p>It is not possible to provide this information as when patients should have their braces removed is a clinical decision This is made for each individual patient and only after their specific needs, treatment progression and compliance has been assessed.</p> <p>The decision of when a patient should have their braces removed is made solely by the orthodontic consultant who has overall responsibility for this care. This is in line with the Service Level Agreement with the orthodontic consultant which states;</p> <p>“The exact patients and when they are seen, will be dictated by the Contractor, in line with the requirements as set out by NHS Shetland, national governance and this agreement”.</p>