

FOI 3151

12<sup>th</sup> August 2025**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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- 1. Total numbers of children currently waiting a) for assessment b) for treatment to have teeth extracted under General Anaesthetic broken down by HSC Trust area, and by range of time periods children have been waiting for**

**Response:**

A – 28 children waiting for assessment, the longest wait is 27 days, patients usually have an initial assessment within 4 weeks

B – 183 children (up to 16) are awaiting GA,

The longest wait for an urgent patient is 13 weeks.

Longest wait for a routine patient is 64 weeks and 51 weeks, the longest wait after those 2 patients is 34 weeks.

- 2. total numbers of patients presenting with dental issues in A&Es /Emergency Departments by HSC Trust area over each of the past 5 years**

**Response:**

We are unable to provide a response to this question as the SHSCT Emergency Dental Service which operated from Craigavon Hospital Emergency Department was stood down at beginning of Covid.

Dalriada Urgent Care now control all of the emergency dental clinics in the HSC.

You may wish to re-direct this question to the Northern Health & Social Care Trust at the following email address: [info.governance@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:info.governance@northerntrust.hscni.net)

- 3. Total number of complaints made to HSC Trust relating to dental services over each of the past 5 years**

**Response:**

<b>Financial Year Complaint Received</b>	<b>Number of Complaints Received</b>
2020/21	<5
2021/22	6
2022/23	13
2023/24	0
2024/25	<5

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the exact figures from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

Email: [Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Foi.Team@Southerntrust.hscni.net)