

Date 28th May 2024
Our Ref FOI 2024-000183
Enquiries to P&CFS FOI team
E-mail nss.pcfs-foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED]

**Enquiry: Freedom of Information
Practitioner Services Enquiry Number: FOI 2024-000183**

Thank you for your freedom of information request which we received on 26th April 2024. You requested the following information:

For the last 5 financial years - "The number of NHS adult and child patients deregistered from NHS contracted dental practices in Scotland over the last 5 years"

*To be arranged into Health Board Areas, for the last 5 financial years
- specifically, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24*

Information to be collated by Health Board area for each financial year.

For each individual financial year please provide the following information: -

- 1/. The name and address of each practice.*
- 2/. (i) The total number of NHS adult registered patients at each practice at the start of each financial year (ii) the number of NHS adults deregistered by the end of the corresponding financial year.*
- 3/. (i) The total number of NHS child registered patients at each practice at the start of each financial year (ii) the number of NHS children deregistered by the end of the corresponding financial year.*

Part 1, 2(i) and 3(i)

Under Section 25 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) is not required to provide information in response to a request if the information is already reasonably accessible. Dental Practice and registered patient information (column 14) is available at the link below, however, please note the registration data is not split between adult and children.

[Dental Practices and Patient Registrations - Datasets - Scottish Health and Social Care Open Data \(nhs.scot\)](#)

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS National Services Scotland does not hold this information. If you require it split between adults and children, you will need to submit a FOI request to Public Health Scotland - PHS.FOI@phs.scot



Headquarters

Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, EDINBURGH EH12 9EB

Chairperson Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Mary Morgan

In order to be helpful, we have identified two Dental Data Monitoring reports ([All releases of NHS dental data monitoring report](#)) published by Public Health Scotland. This does show the registration split between adults and children at an NHS Board level, but the publication only goes back to November 2023. If you find these reports helpful, you can submit a FOI request to Public Health Scotland to see if they have previous financial year's reports - PHS.FOI@phs.scot

Part 2(ii) and 3(ii)

Under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS National Services Scotland does not hold deregistration information at Practice level, however, we do hold this at NHS Board level. Please find an attached spreadsheet with this information. Please note the following caveats to this data:

NSS Practitioner Services holds information on deregistration/withdrawals from January 2020 onwards, however these figures are not split between adult/children and include deaths, patients moving, and any other reason. **These patients may well have registered thereafter with another dentist, therefore these figures could not be deemed as patients without an NHS dentist.**

We have had to suppress some low numbers. If the number is very low (5 or less) the information cannot be disclosed as it could potentially identify the individuals involved, especially if combined with other data, and this would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Legislation. Therefore, this information is exempt from disclosure under section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 on the grounds that it is personal information.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director, Information Security & Governance, NHS National Services Scotland, Headquarters, Gyle Square, 1 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 9EB within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online application form](#). If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely

