

5 February 2020

Our Ref: RFI 32766

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information Requested in Relation to Dentists, Northern Ireland**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which we received on 27 December and gained clarification on 14 January 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

**Jane McCormick
Information Governance Assistant**

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Appendix A

Q1. The number of Trust dentists signed off with stress

A1. There are a total of three dentists signed off with stress.

Q2. How many children have been treated in hospital for tooth decay for each of the past five years?

A2. 2014/15 1571 total cases (across the 3 Trust sites)
2015/16 1605 total cases
2016/17 1455 total cases
2017/18 1455 total cases
2018/19 1238 total cases

Q3. How many people have been treated by Trust dentists in NI care homes in each of the past five years?

A3.

Nursing Homes		
YEAR	CONTACTS	PATIENTS
2015	101	84
2016	391	383
2017	665	637
2018	604	545
2019	1945	1337

Please note that in response to the data collected for patients treated in Nursing homes (3) – these figures are approximate.

Q4. What is the average and youngest age for extractions for decay in Trust hospitals, last year and five years ago?

A4.

CONTACTS	NUMBER OF PATIENTS	AVERAGE AGE	YOUNGEST
869	860	8	2 years
1542	1529	7	1year 2 months
1425	1424	7	1year 11 months
1248	1242	7	2 years
1110	1104	7	1 year 2 months