



19 May 2023

**Our Ref:** RFI 50551

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in Relation to the Trusts Community Dental Service**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 17 April 2023. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Nursing, Primary Care & Older People 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](mailto: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

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**Rebecca Manning**  
**Information Governance Manager (Interim)**

### **Community Dental Services**

**Q1. How many patients in total are currently on the waiting list to access community dental services, broken down as follows:**

- **Current GA Extraction waiting lists:**
- **Children on extraction only GA lists**
- **Special Care Children's comprehensive care GA – extractions and restorations**
- **Adult Special Care GA**

A1. Please See Table 1 for data provided from 1/4/2022 to 31/03/2023.

Table 1

<b>Category</b>	<b>No. of Patients Waiting for Treatment</b>
Adult Special GA	21
Children Special GA	5
Paediatrics GA	1005

**Q2. Average length of waiting times for each of the above?**

A2. Please see Table 2 for data provided from 1/4/2022 to 31/03/2023.

Table 2

<b>Category</b>	<b>Average Waiting Time (Weeks)</b>
Adult Special GA	31
Children Special GA	46
Paediatrics GA	50

**Q3. How many are waiting for each of the above?**

A3. Please refer to Table 1

**Q4. What is the longest waiting time for each of the above?**

A4. Please see Table 3 for data provided from 1/4/2022 to 31/03/2023.

Table 3

<b>Category</b>	<b>Longest Waiting Time (Weeks)</b>
Adult Special GA	69
Children Special GA	101
Paediatrics GA	137

Please note that the Trust waiting list is based on clinical need rather than chronological order. Some patients are asymptomatic and therefore triaged as non-urgent. They are monitored in the meantime. If pain presents the patient is re-triaged and upgraded.

**Q5. How many of each (of the above) have been done in the last year?**

A5. Please see Table 4 for data provided from 1/4/2022 to 31/03/2023.

Table 4

Category	No. Carried Out Within the Last Year
Adult Special GA	18
Children Special GA	6
Paediatrics GA	799

***Hospital Dental Services:***

**Q6. New patient waiting times for each dental specialty (i.e. length of time that a patient will wait from receipt of referral to being seen for the first time) for:**

- **Red flag referrals (e.g. possible mouth cancers if applicable).**
- **Urgent referrals.**
- **Routine referrals.**

**Q7. Please also provide number of patients waiting in each category for each dental specialty.**

**Q8. Please provide these figures for (each of) the last 5 years for each dental specialty.**

**Q9. Treatment Waiting times (if a patient is accepted onto a hospital dental treatment waiting list how long will they wait from acceptance to commencement of treatment)?**

**Q10. Please provide details of the longest waiting times in your trust for each hospital dental specialty.**

**Q11. Please provide numbers of patients on each waiting list for each hospital dental specialty.**

**Q12. Please provide these figures for (each of) the last 5 years for each hospital dental specialty.**

A6-12. In relation to Hospital Dental Services, the request is currently under review with the service and I hope to have a response issued to you as soon as possible.