

Reference:	FOI.12130.23
Subject:	NHS Dentist provision
Date of Request:	6 July 2023

Requested:

I would like to formally make a request, Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information on the number of patients currently waiting for treatment with an NHS dentist from the date of this enquiry within your health board. I would like to also request the information be broken down by adult and child patients.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested.

Unlike GP services, there is no formal registration process for NHS dentistry and therefore, patients are free to attend any NHS dental practice that has the capacity to accept them for NHS care. Waiting lists for most areas are held by individual dental practices and patients can be added to as many waiting lists as they wish, this is not limited to NHS dental practices within their own Health Board area. However, waiting lists held by practices are for patients to access NHS dental care rather than waiting lists for treatment; patient notes, including treatment plans are the property of, and are managed by, individual dental practices not the UHB.

NHS dental practices are independent businesses that hold a contract with the UHB to provide a specified amount of NHS dental activity, in accordance with the NHS (General Dental Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

Claims in respect of NHS general dental services are submitted centrally to the NHS Business Services Authority when a course of treatment has been completed. Data is then provided to individual Health Boards; it is this information that allows the relevant Health Board to monitor activity to ensure that contract metrics are being met. However, this data does not include individual patient details or provide information about any further treatment that an individual patient may be waiting for.