

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.19470.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Dentistry statistics
<b>Date of Request:</b>	3 February 2026

**Requested:**

1. How many patients were waiting to be assigned an NHS dentist in the last 10 years providing information for each year from 2025-2015.
2. How many patients are waiting to receive treatment from NHS dentistry in the last 10 years, providing information for each year from 2025-2015. Please Provide a breakdown for each band.

If the requested information is held in electronic format, I would prefer it in spreadsheet form (e.g. Excel or CSV).

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold all the information requested and the information it does hold is not held exactly as requested.

Historically, the UHB has not held a central waiting list for all NHS dental patients. The UHB has only held the waiting list for NHS Dental Practices in Llandeilo, Llanelli and South Ceredigion by local agreement. Additionally, the UHB maintained some holding lists for patients displaced when NHS dental practices terminated their contracts. However, it was a live list which changed continuously, as patients were added and removed from the list once they have left a dental practice or been allocated to a dental practice. Therefore, the UHB is unable to determine patient numbers from these lists' at any set point in time.

Individual NHS dental practices outside of these areas hold their own waiting lists and the UHB does not have access to this information.

The UHB has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), as some of the information requested is already within the public domain and is accessible by another means. The UHB has answered similar Freedom of Information requests, which are available on our disclosure log:

- FOI.14884.24 – Dental services
- FOI.1988.25 – Dental waiting list

A link to the UHB's disclosure log webpage has been provided below:

[Disclosure Log - Hywel Dda University Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)

Additionally, in November 2024, the UHB began piloting the Dental Access Portal (DAP) which was introduced by Welsh Government (WG) to centralise waiting lists for NHS dentists across Wales. This system was rolled out nationally in February 2025.

The UHB can confirm that there were 15,651 UHB patients awaiting allocation of a dental practice, at 12 February 2026

1. The UHB does not hold the requested information, as patient clinical records are held and owned by the individual dental practices and the management of treatment is the responsibility of NHS dental contract holders.