

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.10670.23 & FOI.10671.23
<b>Subject:</b>	NHS dentist waiting lists
<b>Date of Request:</b>	11 January 2023

**Requested:**

1. The number of residents who have been on the waiting list for an NHS dentist in the Hywel Dda Health Board area between January 1 and December 31, 2022. The above data broken down to include the Hywel Health Board total, and if available by Local Authority (Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire).
2. The number of residents who have been on the waiting list for an NHS dentist in the Hywel Dda Health Board area for over 3 years. The above data broken down to include the Hywel Health Board total, and if available by Local Authority (Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire).
3. The number of residents who have been on the waiting list for an NHS dentist in the Hywel Dda Health Board area for over 5 years. The above data broken down to include the Hywel Health Board total, and if available by Local Authority (Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire).
4. The number of residents off the Hywel Dda Health Board NHS dentist list that were given an NHS dentist in 2022 (1 January – 31 December 2022).
5. The estimated waiting time for a resident to receive an NHS dentist in the Hywel Dda Health Board area should they join the waiting list today.
6. If the data is held, the number of children currently on the Hywel Dda Health Board waiting list for an NHS dentist.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as the information is not held in its entirety by the UHB. Within the UHB's area, many of the Dental Practices hold their own waiting lists. It is also worth noting that individuals can be added to multiple waiting lists concurrently.

The UHB does hold live waiting lists for dentists within the South Ceredigion, Llanelli and Llandeilo areas. Therefore, once a patient has been allocated a place with an NHS dentist, they are removed from the list and consequently cannot provide historical data; only the data held at one given point in time. It is also important to note that there is no geographical boundary for registration with NHS Wales dentists and therefore, an individual may be added to a waiting list within any county, provided they are prepared to travel for their appointment.

However, whilst operating in accordance with the Section 45 Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the information it does hold below.

1. – 4. The UHB confirms that it held a waiting list of 6,627 patients, as at 20 January 2022. The UHB also provides below, a breakdown by County, in which their home address is registered

- Carmarthenshire – 3,464 patients
- Ceredigion – 2,511 patients
- Pembrokeshire – 652 patients

Additionally, the UHB confirms that 2,289 patients were allocated to NHS Dental Practices in the UHB's area, during the 2022 calendar year.

5. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) covers any recorded information that is held by a public authority; recorded information includes printed documents, computer files, letters, emails, photographs, and sound or video recordings. The FoIA does not cover information on estimates, opinions or recommendations. The UHB has an obligation to provide information already in recorded form but cannot create new information to answer a question.
6. As provided above, the UHB holds a waiting list of 6,627 patients, of which 1,489 are under the age of 18, as at 20 January 2023.