

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 8453

**Please reply to:**  
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07 September 2023

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to dental health problems.

*You asked: All questions are shown as received by the Trust.*

1) *In the two most recent financial years, please say how many patients presented at your A&E departments (including major A&E departments, minor injuries units and walk-in centres) with dental health problems? Of these:*

*a) Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, how many received treatment at the hospital during that visit?*

*b) Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, can the numbers please be broken down by type of problem (that is: e.g. toothache, loss of teeth, bleeding from the mouth, etc.;*

*c) Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, can the numbers please be broken down by age of the patient. That is: under 18 (child for the purposes of NHS dentistry), adult (18 and over); and*

*d) Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, how many were not registered with an NHS dentist?*

2) *I note that there was a similar Freedom of Information request made in 2020, to which the Trust responded: "The system used in our A&E departments does not have the detailed coding needed to answer this request. The code used in the department is facio-maxillary which includes dental, broken jaws, broken noses sinusitis etc." Has the Trust considered or discussed disaggregating these types of injury/ condition?*

Trust response:

1)

Attendances

2021/22 – 413

2022/23 - 559

a) It may be possible that this information has been entered into the patient record but in order to confirm this each patient record would need to be manually checked by a clinical staff member. The Trust has estimated that it will cost more than the appropriate limit to consider this part of your request. The appropriate limit is specified in regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3½ working days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 the Trust is not obliged to comply with this part of your request and we will not be processing this part of your request further.

b) SNOMED code does not break down to this level, for the financial years 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 only Facial pain (including toothache) has been used.

c)

	2021/22	2022/2023
Under 18	53	98
18 and Over	360	461

d) The Trust does not hold this information.

2) No. We are not required to code to this level of detail, the SNOMED code includes any facial pain.