

4<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**BY EMAIL**

**Our Ref: FOI 2201**

Dear [REDACTED],

Your request for information was received on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested in relation to Specialist Orthodontic Practices.

Please find a response as follows.

**How many specialist orthodontic practices have received the additional 7% PA in the last financial year.**

**How many just received the 4%.**

Please see breakdown of figures requested below.

Month	Payment period (previous 6 months)	Count of Ortho surgeries eligible for extra 7% (Ortho criteria)	Count of Ortho surgeries eligible for extra 7% (GDS criteria)	Count of Ortho surgeries not eligible for extra 7%
May-23	Oct-22 to Mar-23	5	3	17
Nov-23	Apr-23 to Sep-23	3	2	20
May-24	Oct-23 to Mar-24	4	2	19

Please note:

The FPPS Dental system does not classify surgeries as GDS or orthodontic. SPPG has provided FPS with a list of 25 orthodontic surgeries with at least one active contract currently open. Some of these surgeries are specialist only, some are specialist with non-specialists working as assistants, and some are mainly



GDS with a specialist(s) providing orthodontic treatment from them. The Practice Allowance calculation itself does not distinguish between surgery types, it simply applies the 3 criteria sets for extra 7% payment eligibility to each surgery and as long as the surgery meets 1 of the criteria sets, it will receive the enhanced payment. We have provided figures showing whether the surgery has qualified for the extra payment on either the Orthodontic or standard GDS criteria. For the purpose of this count, any surgery meeting both sets of criteria has been counted only as meeting the Orthodontic criteria to avoid counting them in both categories.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter, as the BSO, along with all other public authorities are not obliged to accept internal review requests after this period has lapsed.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,  
2 Franklin Street,  
Belfast,  
BT2 8DQ

If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision-making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

**Website:** [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 0303 123 1113  
**Email:** [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)  
**Post:** Information Commissioner's Office  
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place  
Belfast  
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,



**Karen Bailey**  
Chief Executive