HSC Business Services Organisation

Chief Executive
2 Franklin Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DQ

Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net

3rd September 2019

BY EMAIL
[redacted]

Our Ref: FOI 1097

Dear [redacted]

Your request for information was received on 7th August 2019 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 with regards to oral health statistics within Northern Ireland.

Please find this information attached (Appendix A).

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.

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

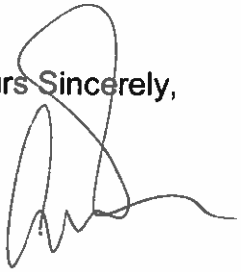
If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate 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
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: 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,



Liam McIvor
Chief Executive

Appendix A

A. We seek the most up to date information on the current state of child (0-10yrs) oral health. Specifically, we seek information on the following:

1. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland are registered with a Dental practice?

Number registered at a Dental Practice at March 2019

Age at March 2019	Number of Children
0	1,107
1	6,747
2	13,194
3	16,968
4	19,065
5	20,005
6	21,931
7	22,351
8	22,888
9	22,434
10	22,507

- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

2. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland have fillings?

Number of unique children who had fillings up to March 2019

Age at March 2019	Number of Children
1	<5
2	46
3	375
4	1,465
5	3,610
6	6077
7	8,670
8	11,544
9	13,230
10	14,855

- Treatment codes for fillings are all 14 codes except 1422-1425, 1431, 1451, 1499 and codes 4401, 5811, 5812, 5813, 5814, 5821, 5825, 5826, 5836, 6001.
- Excludes all private work and any work carried out by in HSC hospitals and Community Dental Services.
- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

3. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland have four or more fillings?

Number of unique children who had 4 or more fillings up to March 2019

Age at March 2019	Number of Children
1	-
2	<5
3	54
4	248
5	797
6	1,663
7	2,803
8	4,309
9	5,603
10	6,899

- Treatment codes for fillings are all 14 codes except 1422-1425, 1431, 1451, 1499 and codes 4401, 5811, 5812, 5813, 5814, 5821, 5825, 5826, 5836, 6001.
- Excludes all private work and any work carried out by in HSC hospitals and Community Dental Services.
- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

4. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland have had teeth extracted?

Number of unique children who had extractions up to March 2019

Age at March 2019	Number of Children
0	<5
1	<5
2	7
3	5
4	60
5	225
6	802
7	1,613
8	2,688
9	3,831
10	5,026

- Treatment codes for extractions are all 21, 22 and 52 codes except 2121, 2211, 2221 and 5206.
- Excludes all private work and any work carried out by in HSC hospitals and Community Dental Services.

- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

5. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland have had four or more teeth extracted?

Number of unique children who had 4 or more extractions up to March 2019

Age at March 2019	Number of Children
4	<5
5	<5
6	9
7	45
8	86
9	187
10	299

- Treatment codes for extractions are all 21, 22 and 52 codes except 2121, 2211, 2221 and 5206.
- Excludes all private work and any work carried out by in HSC hospitals and Community Dental Services.
- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

6. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland have undergone a full clearance of all teeth

No children, aged 10 or less, at March 2019 has had a full clearance of all teeth at a GDS Dental Practice. BSO are unable to identify if children may have had part of a full clearance carried out by a GDS Dental Practice and the rest undertaken by the Paediatric Dentistry specialty within an HSC hospital setting.

7. How many children (0-10yrs) have undergone a full clearance of all teeth in each of the last five years?

No children, aged 10 or less, at March 2019 has had a full clearance of all teeth at a GDS Dental Practice in each of the last five years. BSO are unable to identify if children may have had part of a full clearance carried out by a GDS Dental Practice and the rest undertaken by the Paediatric Dentistry specialty within an HSC hospital setting.

8. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland have undergone oral health treatment in a hospital setting?

BSO do not hold figures on the number of children who have undergone oral health treatment in a hospital setting. This information would need to be request from the Department of Health.

9. How many children - in each age cohort (0-10yrs) - in Northern Ireland were sedated prior to dental treatment?

Children requiring general anaesthetic prior to dental treatment would be carried out in an HSC hospital and not held by BSO. Although a small number of sedations have been carried out in Dental Practice for children aged 10 or less at March 2019 and been detailed out below.

Age at March 2019	Number of Children
2	<5
3	15
4	83
5	269
6	517
7	813
8	1247
9	1518
10	1782

- Treatment codes for extractions include 2551, 2571 and 2572.
- Excludes all private work and any work carried out by in HSC hospitals and Community Dental Services.
- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

B. We seek the most up to date information on the current state of older person (65+yrs) oral health. Specifically, we seek information on the following:

1. How many older persons (65+yrs) in each age cohort are registered with a Dental practice?

Number registered at a Dental Practice at March 2019

Age at March 2019	Number of older persons
65	11,378
66	11,029
67	10,460
68	10,460
69	10,306
70	10,045
71	9,899
72	9,626
73	8,513
74	8,493
75	8,020
76	7,474
77	6,338
78	5,660
79	5,371
80	5,302
81	4,572
82	4,299
83	3,573
84	3,213
85	2,780

86	2,438
87	1,985
88	1,630
89	1,437
90	1,038
91	850
92	677
93	445
94	327
95	247
96	152
97	93
98	62
99	32
100+	35

- Age is calculated at March 2019 by linking the HCN on the submission claim to National Health Application and Infrastructure Services (NHAIS)

2. **How many older persons (65+yrs) currently reside in residential and nursing homes in Northern Ireland?**
3. **How many older persons (65+yrs) currently residing in residential and nursing homes are registered with a Dental practice?**
4. **How many older persons (65+yrs) currently residing in residential and nursing homes benefited from the application of fluoride varnish in 2018/19?**
5. **How many domiciliary visits featuring older persons (65+yrs) were carried out by General Dental Services in the years 2018/19, 2017/18, 2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15?**

Patients living in residential care or those that require a domiciliary visit for dental treatment are carried out by the Community Dental Service within HSC hospitals. BSO do not hold this information and therefore unable to supply information on Qs 2-5.

C. We seek information on the cost of facilitating General Dental Service commitment payments before they were phased out in 2016. Specifically:

1. **What was the total cost to HSCB of facilitating GDS commitment payments in the five financial years prior to removal?**

The total cost to HSCB of facilitating GDS commitment payments in the five financial years prior to removal is held by the HSCB, therefore a separate FOI request would need to be sent to the HSCB for this information.