

3rd September 2019

BY EMAIL
[REDACTED]Tel: 028 9536 3863
Email: FOI.BSO@hscni.net**Our Ref: FOI 1101**

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received on 14th 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 orthodontic treatment.

Please find this information below:

The number of specialist orthodontists in Northern Ireland and also the number of dentists who offer orthodontic treatment

The following represents the number of General Dental Service (GDS) dentists (including specialist orthodontists) who submitted claims for carrying out orthodontic treatment in Dental Practices in Northern Ireland by calendar year.

Number of Distinct Orthodontic Claims	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1 or more claims	324	322	314	343	332	304	306	275	284
10 or more claims	76	76	83	82	90	86	89	84	92
100 or more claims	48	52	58	64	68	72	67	69	69
250 or more claims	43	42	47	50	55	54	55	54	54

In addition, it should be noted that:

- Treatment codes for Orthodontic are all 32 codes and codes between 5581 and 5591 (See Statement of Dental Remuneration for more details <http://www.hscbusiness.hscni.net/2069.htm>).
- This excludes all private work and any work carried out by in HSC hospitals and Community Dental Services.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care

- These figures will include dentists who are classified as specialist orthodontists.
- Year relates to when claim was paid, this is not necessarily the same year as when the Orthodontic treatment took place.
- Between 2010 and 2014 data was being migrated to the new Family Practitioner Services Payment System, data prior to this cannot be reported on a consistent basis.
- Prior to 1st April 2014 all Orthodontic treatment over a value of £280 had to be prior approved before it could take place. This changed on 1st April 2014 and since that date patients with an Index of Orthodontic Treatment Need (IOTN) score of 3.6 or higher no longer needed prior approval.

BSO are unable to specifically identify those dentists that are classified as specialist orthodontists. This list is held by the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB), therefore a separate FOI request would need to be sent to the HSCB for this information.

Dates as to when each opened or started offering orthodontic treatment

BSO does not hold the date as to when each GDS dental practice started to offer orthodontic treatment so unable to provide this information.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liam McIvor', written over the closing 'Sincerely,'.

Liam McIvor
Chief Executive