

15th June 2023**BY EMAIL**
[REDACTED]**Our Ref: FOI 1974**

Dear [REDACTED]

Your request for information was received 24th May 2023 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 Dental Treatments and Claims.

Please find this information, below.

Q1). Provide the total Item of Service payments and the total treatments carried out in General Dental Services for each financial year since 2019/20.

Table 1 Total Item of Service Payments and Total Treatments carried out in General Dental Service by Financial Year
Source: FPS Dental Payment System

| Financial Year | IOS Fees | Bulk Adjustments | Treatment Claims |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2019-20 | £74,270,000 | £3,260,000 | 1,430,000 |
| 2020-21 | £25,240,000 | £2,360,000 | 450,000 |
| 2021-22 | £42,180,000 | £1,910,000 | 700,000 |

- Figures are based on the annual assurance information supplied by the Business Services Organisation (BSO) to the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (formerly HSCB) for each financial year for SDR IOS fees (including patient charges).
- A treatment claim is defined as at least one Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) Item of Service (IOS) being claimed by the dentist, and can cover a single appointment or multiple appointments. Excludes



interim payment claims and all private work. Excludes work carried out in hospitals. Number of treatment claims rounded to nearest 1,000.

- Bulk adjustments include Arrears, Scale Addition Arrears, Treatment Adjustments, Advances, GDS Pilot Paid Treatments.
- On 23rd March 2020, general dental practitioners (GDPs) were advised to continue to see patients who did not meet the COVID-19 case definition and who required urgent dental care which could be provided using non-aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) however all routine dental treatment was to be postponed. In addition, 5 Trust-based Urgent Dental Care centres were opened at the beginning of April 2020. From 29th June 2020, non-urgent dental care was provided under Phase 2 but AGPs were still prohibited. It was decided to offer a fast-track option to move to Phase 3 from 1 July 2020 onwards for those practices that are able to demonstrate that they meet all the necessary standards to safely offer AGPs and non-urgent/routine care.
- Financial year relates to when claim was paid, this is not necessarily the same year as when the treatment took place.
- Information is only available for those dental practices and dentists who have made arrangements with the SPPG (previously HSCB) to provide health service dentistry.
- Figures for 2022/23 will be available following release of the 'FPS General Dental Services Statistics for Northern Ireland 2022/23' due for publication on the 22nd June 2023.

Q2). Provide the mean average IOS claims for all General Dental Practitioners for each financial year since 2019/20.

Q3). Provide the median average IOS claims for all General Dental Practitioners for each financial year since 2019/20.

Q4). Provide the mode average IOS claims for all General Dental Practitioners for each financial year since 2019/20.

Table 2 Mean, median and mode IOS claims (£) for all General Dental Practitioners by Financial Year

Source: FPS Dental Payment System

| Financial Year | Mean IOS Claims (£) | Median IOS Claims (£) | Mode IOS Claims (£) |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2019-20 | £61.94 | £42.45 | £39.70 |
| 2020-21 | £58.79 | £39.63 | £38.70 |
| 2021-22 | £62.18 | £44.52 | £37.30, £40.70, £44.50, £45.00 |

- An average IOS claim cost has been calculated for each dentist for each financial year by dividing their Gross Treatment by the Number of Treatment Claims. Dentists with more than one contract are included only once.
- A treatment claim is defined as at least one Statement of Dental Remuneration (SDR) Item of Service (IOS) being claimed by the dentist, and can cover a single appointment or multiple appointments. Excludes interim payment claims and all private work. Excludes work carried out in hospitals.
- The Median IOS Claims cost is calculated using the average IOS claim cost for the dentists in that financial year that had at least one treatment claim.

- The Mean IOS Claims cost is calculated using the average IOS claim cost for the dentists in that financial year that had at least one treatment claim.
- The Mode IOS Claims cost is calculated using the average IOS claim cost for the dentists in that financial year that had at least one treatment claim. In this case the average IOS claim for each dentist was rounded to the nearest 10p before the mode was calculated. More than one modal value can exist if there are multiple numbers that occur with equal frequency, and more times than the others in the set.
- Financial year relates to when claim was paid, this is not necessarily the same year as when the treatment took place.
- Information is only available for those dental practices and dentists who have made arrangements with the SPPG (previously HSCB) to provide health service dentistry.
- Figures for 2022/23 will be available following release of the 'FPS General Dental Services Statistics for Northern Ireland 2022/23' due for publication on the 22nd June 2023.

Q5). Provide the total number of dentists providing Health Service treatment since 2019/20.

Table 3 Dentist Headcount by Financial Year
Source: FPS Dental Payment System

| Financial Year | Number of Dentists |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 2019-20 | 1,147 |
| 2020-21 | 1,142 |
| 2021-22 | 1,146 |

- Dentists (including trainees, principals, associates, orthodontists) registered on the dental list to carry out health service treatment at 31st March each year.
- Dentists can work in multiple locations across Northern Ireland.
- Dentists may provide dental services to a combination of health service and private patients.
- In any financial year the number of dentists making claims is likely to be higher than the number at the end of the financial year as practitioners will join or leave during the financial year.
- Figures for 2022/23 will be available following release of the 'FPS General Dental Services Statistics for Northern Ireland 2022/23' due for publication on the 22nd June 2023.

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
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,



Karen Bailey
Chief Executive