Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foi.tsdft@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10878

21 October 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

1) **For each financial year between 2019-20 and 2025-26, how many patients presented at your A&E departments (to include major A&E departments, minor injuries units and walk-in centres) with dental health problems?**

   To specify, this is where the primary diagnosis for A&E attendance is related to dental disorders (excluding OMFS if possible).

Financial Year	Number of patients, excluding OMFS
2019/2020	194
2021/2021	253
2021/2022	274
2022/2023	241
2023/2024	327
2024/2025	359
2025/2026	370

2) **Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, how many received treatment at the hospital during that visit? This is any recorded treatment during the A&E attendance.**

Financial Year	Number of patients
2019/2020	95
2021/2021	74
2021/2022	91
2022/2023	47
2023/2024	78
2024/2025	74
2025/2026	62

3) **Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, can the numbers please be broken down by type of problem e.g. toothache, loss of teeth, bleeding from the mouth.**

   Where possible please categorise this breakdown into the standardised diagnoses list of 'Hospital Admitted Patient Care Activity', specifically related to K0-K14 for dental health problems (https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/hospital-admitted-patient-care-activity) which are specified as such:

   A. Disorders of tooth development and eruption
   B. Embedded and impacted teeth
   C. Dental caries
   D. Other diseases of hard tissues of teeth
   E. Diseases of pulp and periapical tissues
   F. Gingivitis and periodontal diseases
   G. Other disorders of gingiva and edentulous alveolar ridge
   H. Dentofacial anomalies [including malocclusion]
   I. Other disorders of teeth and supporting structures
   J. Cysts of oral region, not elsewhere classified
   K. Other diseases of jaws
   L. Diseases of salivary glands
   M. Stomatitis and related lesions
   N. Other diseases of lip and oral mucosa
   O. Diseases of tongue.

   The Trust is unable to provide the requested breakdown against each of the categories listed above because these categories do not directly correspond with the diagnosis categories recorded within our Emergency Care Data Set. We have therefore provided below the dental-related diagnoses that can be directly and reliably identified from the information held.

Primary Diagnosis	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Dental abscess	111	126	141	143	163	201	183
Dental caries	31	57	69	36	85	84	103
Fracture of tooth (simple)	5	22	8	5	7	20	18
Gingivitis/ Gingivostomatitis	12	10	9	13	20	12	13
Loose tooth / teeth	11	10	15	19	13	16	25
Salivary gland abscess	6	8	6	9	10	10	9
Salivary gland stone AND fracture of tooth (complex) — combined	6	11	9	7	15	10	4
Tooth/ teeth removed from socket	12	9	17	9	14	6	15

Salivary gland stone and fracture of tooth (complex) are reported together to limit disclosure of small diagnosis groups, in line with section 40(3A)(a) of FOIA and Article 9 of the UK GDPR. Each annual figure combines both categories without showing their individual counts, including zeros. The diagnoses remain distinct; grouping them does not suggest clinical equivalence. A combined count below five does not reveal the split between them.

4) Of the patients presenting with dental health problems, can the numbers please be broken down by age of the patient eg. 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90+

Financial year	0-9 Years	10-19 Years	20-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50-59 Years	60-69 Years	70-79 Years	80-89 Years	90+ Years
2019/20	14	16	37	34	28	36	11	5	11	<5
2020/21	17	10	73	47	30	38	21	10	7	0
2021/22	26	22	55	55	27	45	21	14	9	0
2022/23	30	20	39	51	31	34	16	16	<5	0
2023/24	37	16	64	62	55	37	34	13	8	<5
2024/25	25	29	79	79	50	39	26	20	8	<5
2025/26	33	31	82	75	49	48	28	17	6	<5

Low Numbers:
Small counts can increase the risk of identifying patients when combined with other available information. Combining diagnosis categories reduces the detail disclosed while retaining the combined annual figures. A count below five is not automatically personal data or exempt from disclosure; the relevant consideration is whether a living individual could reasonably be identified from the information, either alone or together with other available information. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies where disclosure would constitute personal data and contravene the data protection principles. Combining categories does not, by itself, establish that the information is anonymous.

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team