

Dental Decay - Treatment Delay and Death

Reference Number: RDF2040-23

Date of Response: 22/11/23

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

Please can I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act on tooth decay.

- The number of people treated by your Trust after being admitted with issues attributed to tooth decay broken down by each of the years a) 2018, b) 2019, c) 2020, d) 2021, e) 2022, g) 2023*

Year	Admissions with Tooth Decay
2018	521
2019	399
2020	259
2021	328
2022	457
2023	508

- The number of people aged 18 and under treated by your Trust after being admitted with issues attributed to tooth decay broken down by each of the years a) 2018, b) 2019, c) 2020, d) 2021, e) 2022, g) 2023*

Year	Admissions with Tooth Decay (Aged 18 or under)
2018	94
2019	58
2020	59
2021	88
2022	191
2023	212

- The number of people whose death has been attributed to issues relating to tooth decay by your Trust broken down by each of the years a) 2018, b) 2019, c) 2020, d) 2021, e) 2022, g) 2023 as well as a total figure across those years.*

Answer: The Trust does not hold this information in a reportable format, the Trust has no obligation to 'create' information.

To provide you with the information requested would require the manual extraction and manipulation of information from various sources and systems including individual patient records. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

In addition, it is not expected and inappropriate for the Trust to review individual patient records to obtain/produce the information. In this instance the FOI question is exempt under Section 40 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (patients personal data).