

Ref. No: 0458  
Date: 21/11/23  
Subject: A&E Admissions (Dental Issues)

## REQUEST

I am writing with a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Specifically, I would like to ask the following:

1. Since 20/11/22, how many people been admitted to A&E at hospitals within your Trust with tooth decay or other dental conditions?
2. Of these, how many resulted in an operation for tooth extraction?

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. **Since 20/11/22, how many people been admitted to A&E at hospitals within your Trust with tooth decay or other dental conditions?**

Southport and Ormskirk:

300 patients have attended A&E with dental related problems since 20/11/2022.

St Helens and Knowsley:

2,036 patients have attended A&E with a presenting complaint of: abscess, dental problem, facial swelling, jaw problem, or mouth pain.

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Please note that we are unable to confirm if each attendance is related specifically to tooth decay / dental problems without a manual review of records. We estimate that this would far exceed the appropriate time limit.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

**2. Of these, how many resulted in an operation for tooth extraction?**

Southport and Ormskirk:

7 patients have been referred to our Oral Surgery speciality since 20/11/2022.

St Helens and Knowsley:

None have resulted in an operation for tooth extraction as an inpatient.

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Please note that we are unable to confirm if a tooth extraction took place within A&E without a manual review of records. We estimate that this would far exceed the appropriate time limit.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.