

13 August 2024

Mouth/Oral Cancer Referrals

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following data:

The number of oral cancer referrals received by hospitals in your Trust between January 2017 and the most recent completed month that is available (most likely June 2024). I also request this data be presented as monthly figures.

Between January 2017 and 31 May 2024 there were 2470 red flag referrals received for potential oral cancer cases.

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

2017												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	<5	<5	5	<5	6	<5	5	9	7	5	13	11

2018												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	18	21	22	36	39	35	27	32	29	47	46	26

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2019												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	43	35	40	34	36	24	42	33	35	44	42	29

2020												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	43	32	26	11	21	26	27	31	21	40	32	32

2021												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	24	28	27	37	25	43	34	41	33	33	46	30

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2022												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	36	34	38	24	43	36	25	30	28	37	28	29

2023												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	28	36	36	15	25	33	21	21	29	33	33	23

2024												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Number of oral cancer referrals	18	19	30	31	21	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

By way of context, information for June is unavailable due to the implementation and roll out of a new digital programme across Northern Ireland called 'encompass' and a resulting downturn in activity whilst staff adjusted to new ways of working.