General Dental Council: Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Date released: 23 May 2022

Request:

- State the number of dental hygienists (by headcount) on the GDC register whose award or qualification indicates that they can only register as a dental hygienist.
- State the number of dental hygienists (by headcount) on the GDC register with an English postcode whose award or qualification indicates that they can only register as a dental hygienist.
- State the number of dental therapists (by headcount) on the GDC register.
- State the number of dental therapists (by headcount) on the GDC register with an English postcode.
- State the number of dental therapists whose GDC registration indicates that they only trained as a dental therapist before joint dental hygienist and dental therapist training was combined, eg those from Newcross.
- State by headcount the number of dental hygienists on the GDC register with an English postcode whose registration qualification is a level 6 or bachelor's degree.
- State by headcount the number of dental therapists with an English postcode whose registration qualification is a level 6 or bachelor's degree.

Response:

I write further to my email of 29 April 2022 acknowledging your request for information regarding dental therapists and hygienists in England and the UK.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act) and I can confirm we hold the information requested. Specifically, you requested the following information, which I will provide in turn below:

**The number of dental hygienists (by headcount) on the GDC register whose award or qualification indicates that they can only register as a dental hygienist.**

As of 10 May 2022, there were 3232 dental hygienists on the GDC register whose award or qualification indicates that they can only register as a dental hygienist.

**The number of dental hygienists (by headcount) on the GDC register with an English postcode whose award or qualification indicates that they can only register as a dental hygienist.**

As of 10 May 2022, there were 2687 dental hygienists with an English postcode whose award or qualification indicates that they can only register as a dental hygienist. However, there are limitations to this postcode data based on registrants' registered addresses. Registrants choose which address to give to the GDC as their registered address (i.e., an address registrants are required to keep up to date for receipt of correspondence from the GDC) and it can be a home address, a practice address or a PO box number, and that this means the GDC does not routinely collect and hold all of a registrant's past practice addresses, nor all of their past home addresses. It could be a mixture of the two, depending which addresses have been used as the registered address from time to time. As the General Dental Council regulates individual dentists and dental care professionals rather than organisations/surgeries registrants do not have to provide their surgery address. Therefore, this postcode data does not necessarily show where a dental hygienist is residing or practising their profession.

**The number of dental therapists (by headcount) on the GDC register.**

As of 10 May 2022, there were 4589 dental therapists on the GDC register.

The number of dental therapists (by headcount) on the GDC register with an English postcode.
As of 10 May 2022, there were 3989 dental therapists on the GDC register with an English postcode. As referred to above as this postcode data is based on a registrant’s registered address for correspondence with the General Dental Council it does not necessarily indicate where a dental therapist either resides or practises dental therapy.

The number of dental therapists whose GDC registration indicates that they only trained as a dental therapist before joint dental hygienist and dental therapist training was combined, for example those from New Cross.

As of 10 May 2022, there were 254 dental therapists whose GDC registration indicates that they only trained as a dental therapist before joint dental hygienist and dental therapist training was combined.

By headcount the number of dental hygienists on the GDC register with an English post code whose registration qualification is a level 6 or bachelor's degree.

As of 23 May 2022, the number of dental hygienists on the GDC register with an English post code whose registration qualification is a level 6 qualification or a bachelor’s degree is 1290. However, as this postcode data is based on a registrant’s registered address for correspondence with the General Dental Council it does not necessarily indicate where a dental hygienist either resides or practises.

By headcount the number of dental therapists with an English post code whose registration qualification is a level 6 or bachelor’s degree.

As of 23 May 2022, the number of dental therapists on the GDC register with an English post code whose registration qualification is a level 6 qualification or a bachelor’s degree is 1,104. As referred to above as this postcode data is based on a registrant’s registered address for correspondence with the General Dental Council it does not necessarily indicate where a dental therapist either resides or practises dental therapy.