

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/442

Subject: NHS Dental Procurement 1960-1975

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. All records, internal reports, or communications (including memos and letters) held by any department of the Board or predecessor NHS organisations regarding crackdowns, investigations, police involvement or concern about local gangs, underground groups, 'fixers' or racketeers in connection with NHS-provided specialist dental services.</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information.</p>
<p>2. Details of any recorded incidents involving intimidation, threats, vandalism or suspected gang activity reported by staff in NHS dental clinics within your area, whether addressed internally or escalated to police, during the specified period.</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information. Dental practices as independent businesses will have their own mechanisms for managing such incidents.</p>
<p>3. Minutes or outcomes of any internal investigations, committee meetings or policy reviews that addressed the risk or presence of underground or criminal groups affecting dental procurement or service delivery, including any partnerships formed with police or local authorities during that time.</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information nor have authority over criminal investigations.</p>
<p>4. Any correspondence between the NHS authorities (or their contractors/partners) and law enforcement agencies about identifying or mitigating gang influence or incidents in NHS specialist services, particularly dental.</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information.</p>

<p>5. Records of changes to procurement practice, contractor relationships, or financial policy reviews arising from concerns over criminal infiltration, bid rigging or unofficial payments relating to dental services.</p>	<p>The ICB only has access to information on Nationally mandated procurement practice.</p>
<p>6. Any financial records (at the level of contracts, block payments or service provider reviews) which show anomalies, flagged risks, or referenced suspicions of gang influence or fraud impacting NHS dental services in the 1960s and early 1970s in Bristol, North Somerset, or South Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>The ICB does not hold this information.</p>

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 16 April 2026 and has been approved for release by Jenny Bowker, Deputy Director of Performance Delivery, Primary Care and Children’s Services for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.