

Our reference: FOI/2009/202

24 November 2009

Chase Farm Hospital  
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Direct dial 020 8375 2270

By email to: [request-22635-968e09d0@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-22635-968e09d0@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Gaffney

### **Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing to you further to your request for information about:

- Orthodontic retention devices

I have asked the Trust's clinical lead for orthodontics for information and he has advised as follows.

The following retainers are used within our orthodontics department:

- Hawley retainer 65%
- Bonded retainer 34%
- Essix retainer 1%

Regarding how long the device should be worn, I am advised that this is a clinical decision, based on knowledge and experience. Bonded retainers are permanent. Hawley retainers are removable and we recommend to our patients that they be worn for one year, with the last four months being night time wear. Essix in general would follow the Hawley system.

I trust that I have dealt with your request to your satisfaction. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries or if I can be of further assistance.

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If you have any concerns about the response you have received, you may request that the Trust undertakes an independent review of your request. You can do this by contacting our complaints department at the above address. If, after this process, you are still not satisfied with the response you receive, you can contact the Information Commissioner at

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

01625 545 700

Finally, I enclose an evaluation form which I would be very grateful if you could complete and return to me so that we can continually improve our Publication Scheme and the way that we deal with requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Alison Macdonald  
**Board Secretary**