

Information Governance

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21st October 2022

Our reference: FOI DA4383

I am responding to your request for information received **22nd September 2022**. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Lara Cousens
Information Governance Manager – Information Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention

Request: I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information on the employment of prosthetic and orthotic professions within your Trust. The professions considered within the prosthetic and orthotic professions are:

- Prosthetists
- Orthotists
- Prosthetics and orthotics apprentices
- Prosthetic/orthotic support workers (a support worker works with registered staff to deliver service user care, this is different to admin only roles)
- Prosthetic/orthotic technicians
- Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentices

Section 1.

1.1 Have you directly employed (i.e., directly pay the salary) for any prosthetists, orthotists, prosthetics and orthotics apprentices, prosthetic/orthotic support workers (a support worker works with registered staff to deliver service user care, this is different to admin only roles), prosthetic/orthotic technicians, and prosthetic/orthotic technician apprentices within the last 5 years (2017 to present)?

- Yes
- No, we do not currently have, or have had a prosthetics or orthotics service at our Trust/Health Board for the last five years
- No, the prosthetic and/or orthotic service has been contracted to an external supplier for the past five years

Answer: The Trust employs one Operational Manager for the Patient Appliance Service who supports the Orthotist if required. The role also undertakes ordering on behalf of the Orthotist and admin tasks covering the other aspects of the Patient Appliance service. The Trust does not directly employ an Orthotist. The Orthotist is subcontracted to a 3rd party.
We do not employ any other staff to directly support the Orthotist and can therefore not provide any further information regarding staff.

The Trust does not provide a prosthetics service.

If the answer is “Yes” please answer section 2, and if the answer is “No” no further information is required.

Section 2

2.1 Over the past 5 years has your prosthetics or orthotics service been in-house or contracted to an external supplier?

Year	Prosthetic service			Orthotic service		
	No prosthetic service in the Trust/Health Board	In-house	Contracted	No orthotic service in the Trust/Health Board	In-house	Contracted
2017/18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2018/19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2019/20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2020/21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2021/22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At present	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 Which staff do you currently employ?

- Orthotist**
 - Prosthetist**
 - Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist**
 - Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice**
-
- Prosthetic support worker**
 - Orthotic support worker**
 - Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker**
-
- Orthotic technician**
 - Prosthetic technician**
 - Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician**
 - Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice**
-
- We do not currently employ any of these staff groups**

Prosthetic technician										
Orthotic technician										
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician										
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice										

2.5 Do you currently have any vacancies in any of the above-named staff groups?

- Yes
- No (skip to Q2.8)

2.6 If yes, how many vacancies do you have?

Staff group	Number of vacancies	Whole Time Equivalent
Prosthetist		
Orthotist		
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist		
Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice		
Prosthetic support worker		
Orthotic support worker		
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker		
Prosthetic technician		
Orthotic technician		
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician		
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice		

2.7 Have you been unsuccessful in trying to fill these vacancies?

- Yes, we have previously advertised and not been able to successfully recruit
- No, we have not yet advertised the position(s), or the position is currently out for advert for the first time

2.8 Please state how many vacancies you have advertised over the last five years (1st April 2017 – 1st April 2022) for your prosthetic and orthotic workforce. Please state this per person and Whole Time Equivalent.

Staff group	Total number of vacancies					Whole Time Equivalent of staff vacancies				
	2017/ 18	2018/1 9	2019/2 0	2020/2 1	2021/2 2	2017/1 8	2018/1 9	2019/2 0	2020/ 21	2021/2 2
Prosthetist										
Orthotist										
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist										
Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice										
Prosthetic support worker										
Orthotic support worker										
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker										
Prosthetic technician										
Orthotic technician										
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician										
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice										

2.9 Do you use international recruitment agencies to recruit your prosthetics and/or orthotics workforce?

- Yes
- No

2.10 Have any of your current prosthetics and/or orthotics workforce been recruited from overseas?

- Yes
- No

2.11 If yes, please state the number of current staff which have been recruited from overseas.

Staff group	Number of staff recruited from overseas
Prosthetist	
Orthotist	
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist	
Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice	
Prosthetic support worker	
Orthotic support worker	
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker	
Prosthetic technician	
Orthotic technician	
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician	
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice	



We promise to work together creatively to: learn 'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality of life and continuously improve our services.
We care . We respect . We are inclusive

Chief Executive: Paul Calaminus
Interim Chair: Eileen Taylor