



East London
NHS Foundation Trust
Information Governance
Robert Dolan House
9 Alie Street
London
E1 8DE

Email elft.foi@nhs.net
Website: <https://www.elft.nhs.uk>

27th March 2026

Our reference: FOI DA6483

We are responding to your request for information received 17th February 2026. We are sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team

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

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Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: For the purposes of this request:

- Prosthetic service refers to the provision of artificial limbs and associated clinical rehabilitation services to patients following amputation or with limb absence.
- Orthotic service refers to the provision of orthoses (external devices such as braces, splints, and insoles) and associated clinical services to patients with musculoskeletal, neurological, or other conditions.
- In-house means the service is delivered by staff directly employed by your Trust/Health Board.
- Contracted means the service is delivered under a contract with an external provider (e.g. a private prosthetic or orthotic company) who directly employ the prosthetists and/or orthotists.
- Workforce planning refers to any systematic analysis of current and future workforce requirements, including assessment of vacancies, skill mix, succession planning, retirement profiles, and demand modelling.
- WTE means Whole Time Equivalent, reflecting the proportion of full-time hours worked.

Question 1: Does your Trust/Health Board currently provide or commission a Prosthetic service?

Answer: Yes

Question 2: Does your Trust/Health Board currently provide or commission an Orthotic service for patients?

Answer: Yes

Question 3a: If you answered Yes to Question 1: Is your Prosthetic service delivered in-house (i.e. directly employed NHS staff) or is it contracted out to an external provider? In-house / Contracted / Mixed (please specify) / Not applicable

Answer: Contracted in by external provider

Question 3b: If you answered Yes to Question 2: Is your Orthotic service delivered in-house (i.e. directly employed NHS staff) or is it contracted out to an external provider? In-house / Contracted / Mixed (please specify) / Not applicable

Answer: Mixed (In-house but with some contracted staff)

Question 4: Does your Trust/Health Board carry out workforce planning analysis for your Allied Health Professional (AHP) workforce?

Answer: Yes. The Trust undertakes workforce planning analysis for its Allied Health Professional (AHP) workforce. This includes routine assessment of workforce capacity and demand, vacancy and turnover monitoring, skills mix review, and forecasting aligned to service needs. Workforce data is analysed through internal reporting systems and contributes to divisional and Trust-wide workforce planning processes.

Question 5a: If you answered Yes to Question 4: Does your AHP workforce planning specifically include your Prosthetic service workforce (whether in-house or contracted)?

Answer: Yes. All those services attributed to the contract provided by ELFT would be part of the Trust's AHP workforce planning.



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Question 5b: If you answered Yes to Question 4: Does your AHP workforce planning specifically include your Orthotic service workforce (whether in-house or contracted)?

Answer Workforce planning for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) includes the Orthotic Service workforce for services delivered in-house. For contracted Orthotic Services, workforce considerations are included at a high level through contract management and service oversight arrangements; however, detailed workforce planning for contracted staff remains the responsibility of the provider.

Question 6a: If your Prosthetic service is contracted out (as indicated in Question 3a): Does your Trust/Health Board carry out workforce planning for the contracted Prosthetic service?

Answer Yes. All those services attributed to the contract provided by ELFT would be part of the Trust's AHP workforce planning.

Question 6b: If your Orthotic service is contracted out (as indicated in Question 3b): Does your Trust/Health Board carry out workforce planning for the contracted Orthotic service?

Answer Yes.

Question 7a: If you answered Yes to Question 6a: How does your Trust/Health Board collate workforce planning data from the contracted Prosthetic service provider? Please describe the process, including the frequency of data collection and what data is gathered.

Answer Not applicable. The Trust is not responsible for collating such data, it does not collect or provide such data

Question 7b: If you answered Yes to Question 6b: How does your Trust/Health Board collate workforce planning data from the contracted Orthotic service provider? Please describe the process, including the frequency of data collection and what data is gathered.

Answer Not applicable. The Trust is not responsible for collating such data, it does not collect or provide such data.

Question 8: If your Trust/Health Board does not carry out workforce planning for its Prosthetic and/or Orthotic services (whether in-house or contracted), please explain what steps you are taking to secure the prosthetic and/orthotic workforce pipeline.

Answer The Orthotostic services staff are contracted in externally so not our in our employ or responsibility to monitor complete. The orthotic service is monitored to ensure capacity meets demand and adapted accordingly

Question 9: Does your Trust/Health Board include data from its Prosthetic and/or Orthotic services (whether in-house or contracted) in any workforce returns submitted to NHS England, NHS Wales, NHS Scotland, or equivalent national workforce planning bodies? Yes / No / Don't know –please specify which returns

Answer Yes. Data relating to the Orthotic Service workforce is included, where applicable, within national workforce returns submitted to NHS England via Trust Performance Team. This includes the Electronic Staff Record (ESR)



workforce dataset and may also be reflected in wider workforce planning returns and data collections where Orthotic staff are captured within Allied Health Professional staff groups.

Question 10: Please provide the current whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing establishment for your Prosthetic and/or Orthotic services, broken down by:

- **Prosthetists,**
- **Orthotists,**
- **Prosthetic/Orthotic Technicians,**
- **Prosthetic/Orthotic support workers**
- **Please indicate whether each figure relates to in-house or contracted staff.**

Answer The current whole time equivalent (WTE) staffing establishment for the Orthotic Service is as follows:

- Orthotists: 2.0 WTE (Contracted)
- Surgical Appliance Officer: 1.0 WTE (In-house)
- Support Workers: 1.0 WTE (In-house)

In addition, the service includes:

- 1.0 WTE Administrator (In-house)

The prosthetic service is provided by an external contracted service.



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