



31 October 2025

**Our Ref:** FOI 1442

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Information in relation to Podiatry Posts within the Trust**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 02/10/2025.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Primary Care and Older peoples Services Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital ([informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net)) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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**Rebecca Manning**  
Information Governance Officer

**Q1. In the previous 12 months, how many posts within your Podiatry service have you had removed?**

A1. There have been no posts within the Trust Podiatry service removed within the last 12 months.

**Q1a. What were the reasons?**

A1a. N/A.

**Q2. Have you stopped providing any services since August 2024? Yes / No If yes, please provide more detail.**

A2. No, the Trust have not stopped providing any Podiatry services since August 2024.

**Q3. Within your Podiatry service which NHS band are you finding it most difficult to recruit qualified podiatrists to? (Choose up to 3)**

A3. Please see Table 1.

Table 1

|   |
|---|
| Band 6 Most difficult to Recruit          |
| Band 5 Graduates in certain Postcode Area |
| Band 7 Biomechanics Specialist            |

**Q4. What number of podiatrists are you expecting to retire from your Podiatry service within the next five years?**

A4. It is expected that 4 Podiatrists may retire within the next 5 years.

**Q5. How many of the qualified podiatry workforce in your service are funded by short term funding?**

A5. None of the Trusts qualified Podiatry workforce funded by short term funding.

**Q6. How many apprentices do you have in the Podiatry service?**

A6. There are no apprentices within the Trust Podiatry service.

**Q7. How many support workers do you have in the Podiatry service?**

A7. There are 6 support workers within the Trust Podiatry service.

**Q8. Are any of the posts within the Podiatry service externally funded?**

A8. Yes, some of the posts within Healthcare in Prison service are externally funded

**Q9. What were the number of qualified podiatrist vacancies in your Podiatry (WTE) service on week commencing 12 August 2025?**

A9. Please see Table 2.

Table 2

| <b>Podiatrist Band</b> | <b>No. of WTE Vacancies</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Band 5                 | 2                           |
| Band 6                 | 4                           |
| Band 7                 | 1                           |

**Q10. What was your total qualified podiatry workforce in your service on a full-time equivalent basis (WTE) week commencing 12 August 2025**

A10. The total qualified Podiatry workforce on a full-time equivalent basis week commencing 12/08/2025 was 30 WTE.

**Q10a. And Staff numbers (to capture part-time staff)?**

A10a. 37 staff members.

**Q10b. and the number of rheumatology posts**

A10b. There was 1 Band 7 (0.8WTE) Rheumatology post.

**Q11. Please provide workforce no's per band (WTE):**

- **Band 1-4**
- **Band 5**
- **Band 6**
- **Band 7**
- **Band 8a**
- **Band 8b**
- **Band 8c**

A11. Please see Table 3.

Table 3

| <b>Band</b> | <b>Workforce No.</b> |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Band 1 - 4  | 8.08 WTE             |
| Band 5      | 4.2 WTE              |
| Band 6      | 10.92 WTE            |
| Band 7      | 10.88 WTE            |
| Band 8a     | 3 WTE                |
| Band 8b     | 1 WTE                |
| Band 8c     | Nil                  |

**Q12. Please provide your podiatry service specification?**

A12. The Trust Podiatry Service provides expert assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing management of foot and lower limb conditions to support mobility, independence, and overall health and wellbeing.

The service focuses on prevention, early intervention, and reducing the risk of complications—particularly for patients with long-term conditions such as diabetes, peripheral arterial disease, renal disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Care is delivered by registered podiatrists in line with national standards and evidence-based clinical guidelines, ensuring safe, equitable, and person-centred care across all populations.

The service operates within integrated care pathways, working collaboratively with primary, community, and secondary care teams to promote self-care, prevent avoidable hospital admissions and amputations, and improve health outcomes through effective foot health management.

**Q13. Which of the following podiatry services, in table 4, does your Trust provide?**

**Community High Risk foot/ Foot Protection Service Acute Multidisciplinary Wound Service Community MSK/Biomechanics Podiatric Surgery Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (MCATS) Domiciliary (inc social care) Core Podiatry Vascular Nail Surgery Prison Services Mental Health Services Homeless Service Inpatients Paediatrics**

A13. Please see Table 4.

Table 4

| <b>Podiatry Service</b>  | <b>Trust Provide Service – Yes/No</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Community High Risk Foot/Foot Protection Service   | Yes                                   |
| Acute Multidisciplinary Wound Service  | Yes                                   |
| Community MSK/Biomechanics   | Yes                                   |
| Podiatric Surgery Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (in Social Care) | Yes                                   |
| Domiciliary (Inc Social Care)  | Yes                                   |
| Core Podiatry  | Yes                                   |
| Vascular   | Yes                                   |
| Nail Surgery   | Yes                                   |
| Prison Services  | Yes                                   |
| Mental Health Services   | No                                    |
| Homeless Service   | No                                    |
| Inpatients   | Yes                                   |
| Paediatrics  | Yes                                   |