



25 October 2024

Our Ref: RFI 59516 / FOI 20

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Podiatry Service**

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 10 September 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for your understanding and forbearance.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Primary Care & Older Peoples Service 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) 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

Rebecca Manning
Information Governance Officer

Q1a. In the previous 12 months, how many posts within your Podiatry service have you had removed?

Q1a. There have been no posts removed in the Trust Podiatry Services within the last 12 months.

Q1b. What were the reasons?

A1b. N/A.

Q2. Have you stopped providing any services since August 2023? Yes / No

A2. Yes.

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

A3. The Trust Podiatry service find it most difficult to recruit Band 6 Podiatrists with Musculoskeletal specialism.

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

A4. The Trust Podiatry Service expect approximately 4/5 staff to 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 qualified podiatry workforce are 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. The Trust Podiatry service has 7 support workers.

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

A8. No, none of the posts within the Podiatry Service are externally funded.

Q9. What were the number of qualified podiatrist vacancies in your Podiatry (WTE) service on week commencing 12 August 2024?

A9. As of week commencing 12 August 2024 there were 8.5 WTE podiatrist vacancies within the Trust.

Q10a. What was your total qualified podiatry workforce in your service on a full-time equivalent basis (WTE) week commencing 12 August 2024?

A10a. As of week commencing 12 August 2024 the total qualified podiatry workforce, on a full-time basis, was 36 WTE.

Q10b. And Staff numbers (to capture part-time staff)?

A10b. As of week commencing 12 August 2024 there were 53 qualified podiatry staff members.

Q10c. and the number of rheumatology posts?

A10c. As of week commencing 12 August 2024 there were 0.4 WTE band 7 Rheumatology posts within the Podiatry service.

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 1.

Table 1

Band	WTE
1 - 4	6.8
5	1.2
6	16
7	8.7
8a	2.4
8b	1
8c	Nil

Q12. Please provide your podiatry service specification?

A12. **Purpose:** To provide diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventive care for conditions affecting the feet and lower limbs, including musculoskeletal disorders, diabetic foot care, rheumatologically disease, vascular disease, renal disease, wound management, and other medical issues.

Target Population: Adults and children with foot-related issues, including high-risk groups such as diabetic patients, elderly individuals, and people with mobility impairments.

Setting: Services will be provided in various settings such as hospitals, in-patient and outpatient settings, community clinics, GP practices, nursing homes, or home visits for housebound patients.

Q13. Which of the following podiatry services 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 2 for the Podiatry Services provided, from the above list, within the Trust.

Table 2

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