

Freedom of Information Team
Post Room
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Southwick Hill Road
Portsmouth
Hampshire
PO6 3LY

Name:
Email:
Date: 13/05/2021
Ref: 21-22 064

Dear

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 28/04/2021.

1. Which of the following Orthotic Services do you have locally?

- a) **Product and Clinical service**
- b) **Product only in-house clinical service**
- c) **Clinical Service only**
- d) **Fully managed service**

Product and Clinical Service & Fully managed service

2. If your service is run by a 3rd party:

- a) **Who is your current provider?**
Steeper.
- b) **When did the current agreement start?**
01/05/2015.
- c) **When does the current agreement expire?**
30/04/2025.
- d) **What was the total value of the contract?**

This information (contract value) is commercially sensitive. Its release would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust. In accordance with section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to advise you that the Trust holds the information you have requested. However, the Trust is applying the above exemption to your request for this information.

- e) **Is there an allowance for increasing patient numbers and activity each year?**
Activity levels have been considered within the fixed fee.
- f) **Is the contract a lump sum / block contract or pay / BPR for activity basis?**
Fixed monthly fee.
- g) **What is the current cost per Orthotist session in your trust?**

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- 3. Do you run your tender in-house or is it outsourced?**
In-house.
- 4. Which frameworks are you able to buy from currently:**
- a) For Orthotic Clinical Service**
Contracted to Steeper via an OJEU Tender
 - b) For Orthotic stock products**
Contracted to Steeper (Products to be purchased through NHS Supply chain once up and running, as mandated by NHS England)
 - c) For Orthotic bespoke products**
Contracted to Steeper (Products to be purchased through NHS Supply chain once up and running, as mandated by NHS England)
- 5. Are you considering a tender at the moment? (Y/N)**
No.
- 6. What orthotics services are provided by the NHS in your jurisdiction?**
Steeper facilitate the sourcing of appliances and measure products for primary and secondary care patients referred internally for specialist advice and treatment with a variety of needs, including diabetics, podiatry, rheumatology, trauma and orthopaedics.
- 7. How many sessions do you run per week?**
- a) Orthotist**
On average 27 a week (excluding Queen Alexandra Hospital).
 - b) LOP**
None.
 - c) Footwear technicians**
None.
- 8. How many Full-Time equivalent Orthotists work in your Trust?**
Contracted to Steeper (3.2).
- 9. How many appliance officers/administrators do you employ in the Orthotics Service?**
Contracted to Steeper (5) shared across Orthotics, Prosthetics, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Counsellors and Rehabilitation Consultants.
- 10. Over the past three financial years how many orthotics patients were treated (please breakdown by year)?**
- a) April 2018 – March 2019**
2,143.
 - b) April 2019 – March 2020**
2,301.
 - c) April 2020 – March 2021**
1,238.
- 11. For orthotic products:**
- a) Which companies do you currently order Orthotic footwear from or do you make these in house?**
Contracted to Steeper (Orders to be undertaken through NHS Supply chain once up and running – as mandated by NHS England)
 - b) Which companies do you currently order insoles from or do you make these in house?**
Contracted to Steeper
 - c) Please provide annual volumes of prescriptions/orders and total spend for the last 12 months (April 2017 – March 2018) and the lead times for:**
 - i. Stock Orthotic Footwear orders**
 - ii. Modular Orthotic Footwear orders**
 - iii. Bespoke Orthotic Footwear orders**

- iv. **Orthotic Footwear repairs**
- v. **Moulded EVA Insoles**
- vi. **Plastic Heel cups**
- vii. **Carbon Fibre Insoles**
- viii. **Bespoke AFOs**

The Trust does not hold this information in an easily retrievable/recorded format. It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information Request, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team