

Freedom of Information Request**Ref: UHB 17-705**

Date 1 December 2017

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Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trusts response is as follows:

ORTHOTICS:

- 1. How many Orthotists work within your trust /centre (including those employed directly by the trust or private company), please indicate if full or part time?**

The Adult Orthotics service is currently provided by a third party provider. As the Trust is therefore not at liberty to supply this information, Under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act, we are withholding this information on the basis that disclosure of the information would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the third party.

- 2. How many clinical assistants or limited practitioners work within the orthotics department, please indicate if full or part time?**

Please see response to question one.

- 3. How many orthotic technicians work within the orthotics department. Please indicate if full or part time?**

Please see response to question one.

- 4. Do you have a dedicated administration team for your orthotics department, if so how many administrators work within the department, please indicate if full or part time?**

Please see response to question one.

- 5. Does your orthotics manager have a clinical background? If so what is their background: Orthotist, podiatrist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, other (please state).**

Please see response to question one.

- 6. Please give details of the levels of experience each of your Orthotists have (in years) with their job title, e.g. senior Orthotist 7 years.**

Please see response to question one.

- 7. Do you currently have any vacancies in your orthotic service? If so how many? (Please indicate if full or part time and temporary or permanent and title of job role)**

Please see response to question one.

- 8. Does your service provide orthotic placements (including work experience), if so how many students have you had in 2017?**

Please see response to question one.

PROSTHETICS:

- 1. How many prosthetists work within your trust/centre (including those employed directly by the trust or private company), please indicate if full or part time?**

The Trust does not provide a prosthetic service; therefore we are unable to provide the requested information.

- 2. How many clinical assistants or limited practitioners work within the prosthetics department, please indicate if full or part time?**

Please see response to question one.

- 3. How many prosthetic technicians work within the prosthetics department. Please indicate if full or part time?**

Please see response to question one.

- 4. Do you have a dedicated administration team for your prosthetics department, if so how many administrators work within the department, please indicate if full or part time?**

Please see response to question one.

- 5. Does your prosthetics manager have a clinical background? If so what is their background: prosthetist, podiatrist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, other (please state).**

Please see response to question one.

- 6. Please give details of the levels of experience each of your prosthetists have (in years) with their job title, e.g. senior prosthetist 7 years.**

Please see response to question one.

- 7. Do you currently have any vacancies in your prosthetic service? If so how many? (Please indicate if full or part time and temporary or permanent and title of job role)**

Please see response to question one.

8. Does your service provide prosthetics placements (including work experience), if so how many students have you had in 2017?

We do not provide prosthetic placements as we do not provide a prosthetic service at this Trust.

When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in disclosing information to facilitate accountability and transparency in the spending of public money.

There is a public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly.

There is also a public interest in ensuring that this is competition for public sector contracts.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information

Against disclosure is that the release of the requested information is commercially sensitive in that disclosing this information would reduce the number of companies willing to do business with the public sector, leading to reduced competition and increased costs.

Against disclosure is the public interest is the potential that by releasing the requested information would or would prejudice to the commercial interests of that party i.e. damage a company's reputation or the confidence that customers, suppliers or investors may have in a company.

We have considered whether it would be in the public interest for us to provide you with the requested information, despite the exemption being applicable. In this case, I have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information. We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Sections 43 of the Freedom of Information Act at this time.

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Trust Secretary
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]