

**Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act Reference 2021.907
Released 12 August 2021**

Thank you for your email dated 26 July 2021 requesting information regarding the management of hospital porters.

Please find detailed below a summary of your original request together with our response.

Original request

- 1. Can the Trust please provide the total number porters that are currently employed/contracted to perform porter services across the Trust's Hospitals? (This total number of porters can include individual part-time, bank and permanent porter staff that are directly employed by the Trust or porter support procured through a private service provider).***

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust does not employ any porters. We have dual role Facilities Operatives which pick up cleaning and (minimal) portering duties.

- 2. Can the Trust please identify the name(s) of the current system(s) used by Trust staff to dispatch porters to jobs around the Trust's Hospitals on a daily basis? (e.g. Push To Talk Radio / Bleeper, Smart Phone / Tablet Application, Excel Spreadsheet, Paper-based System and/or Task Management Software on a Computer). By "Dispatch" we refer to the process of activating an individual Porter to take on a specific Job with the hospital.***

We use local radio systems to communicate requirements for cleaning and porter requests.

- 3. Can the Trust please provide clarification on the current contractual relationship of porter support, by this I mean - are porters directly employed by the Trust? or can the Trust provide both the name of the private provider contracted to deliver porter services and the time frame remaining on that contract until review?***

The dual role Facilities Operatives are employed by directly by our Trust.

- 4. Finally can the Trust please provide an updated estimate of the total number of 'acute care' beds currently dispersed across its hospital site(s)?***

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust only runs beds in community hospitals. For information relating to acute care beds, you will need to redirect your enquiry to the Trusts running the acute hospitals.

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

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