

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2021.941
Released – 10 September 2021

Thank you for your email received 1 September 2021 requesting information regarding orthotics and prosthetics.

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

Summary of your original request:

Orthotics

1. Finance

- a. Does your trust/board provide a contracted orthotic service or a NHS in house service?** In house
- b. If your service is run by a contractor:**
 - i. please name them**
 - ii. when did the current agreement start?**
 - iii. What is the total value of the contract?**
 - iv. Is the tender covering both service and product? Please state what it covers**
 - v. How is your orthotics service commissioned? By Block contract? By local tariff? If you are on a local tariff how much does your Trust/ Health board get paid per contact?**

Not applicable

- c. Please provide annual volumes of orders for the last 12 months for the following products**
 - i. Stock paediatric Footwear**
 - ii. Modular adult Orthotic Footwear**
 - iii. Bespoke Orthotic Footwear**
 - iv. Orthotic Footwear repairs**
 - v. Moulded EVA Insoles** 509 Total for Podiatry Service (CAD and Traditional manufactured)
 - vi. Plastic Heel cups**
 - vii. Carbon Fibre Insoles**
 - viii. Bespoke AFOs**
- d. Can you give the breakdown of your financial performance versus budget for your Orthotic PRODUCT annually for the last 5 years?**
- e. Can you give a breakdown of your financial performance versus budget for your orthotic SERVICE excluding all NON-PAY items. annually for the last 5 years?**

Chairman John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

We are not able to provide information for parts d and e of this question as this is an income generating service and we feel that this information is considered to be commercially sensitive information that could be beneficial to competitors and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 43(2) is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption which requires that I provide evidence of harm in disclosure and a public interest test. I have included the relevant part of this exemption and the evidence of harm and public interest test below.

Section 43 – Commercial Interests

(2) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

Evidence of Harm

Disclosure of the information requested would be likely to damage the commercial interests of the Trust as it would assist competitors in the provision of this service.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The disclosure of the information requested would contribute to the aims of openness and accountability which the Freedom of Information Act promotes. It would also show that there is transparency in the use of public funds and that public money is being used effectively.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The provision of the information requested would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust and would affect the Trust's bargaining position during contractual negotiations should the contract be retendered, which would result in the less effective use of public money.

To release information relating to this service would weaken the Trust's position in a competitive environment by revealing market-sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to competitors.

Balancing Test

Whilst we note that the provision of the information requested would ensure that we remain open and accountable, this is outweighed by the need for the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust to remain competitive with regards to proposed tenders and commercial activity and to protect the commercial interests of ourselves and companies providing services to us.

2. Service provision

- a. Please list the clinics providing orthotic services and for each of them**
 - i. The number of orthotists utilised by the trust**
 - ii. Annual full cost of the service**
- b. Over the last five financial years, how many orthotics appointments were made for your entire service?**

We are a podiatry service and orthotic manufacture facility and do not employ Orthotists.

Prosthetics

1. Finance

- a. Does your trust/board provide a contracted prosthetic service or a NHS in house service?**
- b. If your service is run by a contractor:**
 - i. please name them**
 - ii. when did the current agreement start?**
 - iii. What is the total value of the contract?**
 - iv. Is the tender covering both service and product? Please state what it covers**
 - v. How is your prosthetics service commissioned? By Block contract? By local tariff? If you are on a local tariff how much does your Trust/ Health board get paid per contact?**
- c. Please provide annual volumes of orders for the last 12 months for the following products**
 - i. Upper limbs prosthetics**
 - ii. Lower limbs prosthetics (excluding micro-processor-controlled limbs)**
 - iii. Micro-processor-controlled lower limbs prosthetics**
- d. Can you give the breakdown of your financial performance versus budget for your prosthetic PRODUCT annually for the last 5 years?**
- e. Can you give a breakdown of your financial performance versus budget for your prosthetic SERVICE excluding all NON-PAY items.**

2. Service provision

- a. Please list the clinics providing prosthetic services and for each of them**
 - i. The number of prosthetists utilised by the trust**
 - ii. Annual full cost of the service**
- b. Over the last five financial years, how many prosthetic appointments were made for your entire service?**

Not applicable.