

Request for information under the Freedom of Information Act – 2022.176
Released – 10 October 2022

Thank you for your email received 22 September 2022 requesting information regarding prosthetic and orthotic workforce.

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

Summary of your original request:
Questions related to your prosthetic and orthotic workforce

Please see completed questionnaire detailed below.

Chair John Goulston **Chief Executive** Mairead McCormick
Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Questions related to your prosthetic and orthotic workforce

Please provide the Trust/Health Board name:	Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust
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Section 1.

1.1 Have you directly employed (i.e., directly pay the salary) for any prosthetists, orthotists, prosthetics and orthotics apprentices, prosthetic/orthotic support workers (a support worker works with registered staff to deliver service user care, this is different to admin only roles), prosthetic/orthotic technicians, and prosthetic/orthotic technician apprentices within the **last 5 years** (2017 to present)?

- Yes
- ~~No, we do not currently have, or have had a prosthetics or orthotics service at our Trust/Health Board for the last five years~~
- ~~No, the prosthetic and/or orthotic service has been contracted to an external supplier for the past five years~~

If the answer is “Yes” please answer section 2, and if the answer is “No” no further information is required.

Section 2

2.1 Over the past 5 years has your prosthetics or orthotics service been in-house or contracted to an external supplier?

Year	Prosthetic service			Orthotic service		
	No prosthetic service in the Trust/Health Board	In-house	Contracted	No orthotic service in the Trust/Health Board	In-house	Contracted
2017/18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2018/19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2019/20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2020/21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2021/22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 Which staff do you **currently** employ?

- Orthotist
- Prosthetist
- Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist
- Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice

-
- Prosthetic support worker
 - Orthotic support worker
 - Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker

-
- Orthotic technician
 - Prosthetic technician
 - Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician
 - Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice

-
- We do not currently employ any of these staff groups

2.5 Do you currently have any vacancies in any of the above-named staff groups?

- Yes
- No (skip to Q2.8)

2.6 If **yes**, how many vacancies do you have?

Staff group	Number of vacancies	Whole Time Equivalent
Prosthetist		
Orthotist		
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist		
Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice		
Prosthetic support worker		
Orthotic support worker		
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker		
Prosthetic technician		
Orthotic technician		
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician		
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice		

2.7 Have you been unsuccessful in trying to fill these vacancies?

- Yes, we have previously advertised and not been able to successfully recruit
- No, we have not yet advertised the position(s), or the position is currently out for advert for the first time

2.8 Please state how many vacancies you have advertised over the last five years (1st April 2017 – 1st April 2022) for your prosthetic and orthotic workforce. Please state this per person and Whole Time Equivalent.

Staff group	Total number of vacancies					Whole Time Equivalent of staff vacancies				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Prosthetist										
Orthotist										
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist										
Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice										
Prosthetic support worker										
Orthotic support worker										
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker										
Prosthetic technician										
Orthotic technician	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	3.8
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician										
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice										

2.9 Do you use international recruitment agencies to recruit your prosthetics and/or orthotics workforce?

- Yes
 No

2.10 Have any of your current prosthetics and/or orthotics workforce been recruited from overseas?

- Yes
 No

2.11 If **yes**, please state the number of current staff which have been recruited from overseas.

Staff group	Number of staff recruited from overseas
Prosthetist	
Orthotist	
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist	
Prosthetics and orthotics apprentice	
Prosthetic support worker	
Orthotic support worker	
Dual practicing prosthetist/orthotist support worker	
Prosthetic technician	
Orthotic technician	
Dual practicing prosthetic/orthotic technician	
Prosthetics and orthotics technician apprentice	