



FOI REF: 24/796

26<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

[The answers to your specific questions are detailed within the attached document.](#)

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)

## FOI request to identify barriers to Prosthetist & Orthotist Training, Education & Development

This FOI request should be completed by the Prosthetic &/or Orthotic Service lead or P&O Centre manager.

NOTE: The term '**P&O**' refers to **Prosthetic, Orthotic or Prosthetic & Orthotic** in this FOI request

Q1. Is there a prosthetic and / or orthotic service at this Trust / Health Board?

Yes

No

If the answer is 'Yes' - please continue to Q2 and the rest of the FOI.

If the answer is 'No' - no further information is required thank you.

**If you have answered yes to Q1:**

Q2. Please confirm how many whole-time equivalent clinicians work in this P&O service?

Number of prosthetists \_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of orthotists \_\_\_\_\_ 1.7 \_\_\_\_\_

Q3. Is a nationally recognised Service Specification referenced/adopted for delivering this P&O service?

Yes – the NHSE Prosthetic Specialised Services For People Of All Ages With Limb Loss (1)

Yes – the NHSE's Orthotics Model Service Specification (2)

No – local specification

Unsure

(1) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Complex-disability-equipment-prosthetics-all-ages.pdf>

(2) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/orthcs-serv-spec.docx>

Q4. Did the output of 'Job Planning' define the number and role of staff required for the service for either NHS-employed P&O clinicians, or for sub-contract clinicians when the contract was tendered? I.e. defining time for Patient-focused / Clinical Activity VS CPD/ Supporting Professional Activities time for each role?

Yes – job planning completed

No – job planning not completed but in progress

No – not planning to undertake Job Planning

Q5. Please confirm if the P&O service is delivered by a third-party commercial P&O company?

Yes - go to Q6

Yes in part - go to Q6

No - skip to Q7

Q6. Does the specification for this service explicitly require the cost of supporting non-mandatory training, education & development to be built in to the service fee / session fee charged to the Trust/Health board? Where 'supporting' means, for example, the cost of courses, the cost of supervision, the cost of backfilling the clinicians CPD time.

Yes

No

Not applicable.

Q7. Outside the usual requirement for fire safety, information governance, health & safety type training, is protected Training, Education and Development / CPD time built in to the clinic timetable for NHS-employed and/or sub-contracted P&O clinicians in this service?

Yes – protected time is allocated in the weekly timetable for each P&O clinician

No – protected time is not allocated in the weekly timetable for each P&O clinician

Q8. What outcomes do you see when protected time for Training, Education and Development is built in to the clinic timetable for P&O staff in this service? Tick all that apply

Good retention of staff

Good morale

Improved patient outcomes

Reduced returns / remakes

More MDT working

More advanced practice roles

More research / evidence

Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

Q9. Does the service have any of the following barriers to undertaking protected Training, Education and Development time for the P&O clinicians in this service? Tick all that apply

- Staff Vacancies – unable to recruit
- Staff Vacancies – unable to advertise
- Staff vacancies – currently recruiting
- High sickness absence
- Higher workload than budgeted (waiting lists, increased demand)
- No funding for training, education & development
- Staff unwilling to undertake non-mandatory Training, Education & Development
- Lack of available training schemes /courses
- Lack of access to accredited institutions
- No barrier to undertaking protected Training, Education & Development time

Q10. How are the costs of supporting protected Training, Education & Development time funded in the P&O service? – For example, the course costs, the cost of supervision, the cost of backfilling the clinician's CPD time? Tick all that apply.

- The cost is covered by the Trust/Health board via the Learning Beyond Registration fund
- The cost is covered by the Trust/Health board via another form of training budget
- The cost is met personally by the clinician
- The cost for sub-contracted staff is built in to the contract value/service fees charged by the contractor
- The cost for sub-contracted staff is carried by the contractor - not included in the contract value/service fee
- The cost is supported by third party product suppliers
- The cost is supported by OETT (for orthotists and orthotic technicians)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q11. During the last 12 months, on average how much protected Training, Education & Development /CPD time per week was taken per 'preceptor' (up to two years post graduate) - not including admin time related to patient treatment?

- 0 days
- 0.25 days
- 0.5 days
- 0.75 days
- 1 day
- More than 1 day
- No preceptors in the P&O clinical team

Q12. During the last 12 months, on average how much protected Training, Education & Development /CPD time per week was taken per 'graduate' (2-4 years post graduate) - not including admin time related to patient treatment?

- 0 days
- 0.25 days
- 0.5 days
- 0.75 days
- 1 day
- More than 1 day
- No graduates with 2-4 yrs experience in the P&O clinical team

Q13. During the last 12 months, on average how much protected Training, Education & Development /CPD time per week was taken per 'experienced/enhanced practice clinician' (4 years +) - not including admin time related to patient treatment?

- 0 days
- 0.25 days
- 0.5 days
- 0.75 days
- 1 day
- More than 1 day
- No clinicians with 4+ years' experience in the P&O clinical team

Q14. During the last 12 months, on average how much protected Training, Education & Development /CPD time per week was taken per 'advanced practice clinician' - not including admin time related to patient treatment?

- 0 days
- 0.25 days
- 0.5 days
- 0.75 days
- 1 day
- More than 1 day

No advanced practice clinicians in the P&O clinical team

Q15. Do all P&O staff in this service have access to Training, Education & Development to support practice across all 4 pillars of practice - clinical practice, education, leadership, evidence & research. Tick all that apply:

	Yes, all staff	Yes, some staff	No	Unsure
Orthotic/prosthetic clinical practice courses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Education courses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Leadership courses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Evidence/Research courses				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q16. As part of Training, Education & Development of P&O clinicians, does the service have a preceptorship programme to support new graduates into the working environment? Where preceptorship is defined as 'support to transition from an educational environment to a clinical setting to develop skills & confidence' (not onboarding / induction)

Yes

No

Q17. During the preceptorship period (up to 2 years) at what point are new graduates expected to treat their own caseload of triaged patients in this service?

3 months

6 months

9 months

12 months

18 months

24 months

Longer than 24 months

Q18. Does this P&O service have clinic space to accommodate a graduate during their preceptorship programme and/or when shadowing a senior member of the clinical team?

Yes, all of the clinic space is adequate

Yes, most of the clinic space is adequate

Some of the clinic space is adequate

None of the clinic space is adequate

Q19. Have any P&O clinicians in this service used the 'Apprentice Levy' to fund enhanced and advanced level practice qualifications?

Yes – for enhanced practice

Yes – for advanced practice

No

Unsure

Q20. Does the Trust/Health Board or Integrated Care Board request activity and patient outcome Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to be reported for the P&O service?

Yes – activity KPI data is requested (Skip to Q23)

Yes – activity AND patient outcome KPI data is requested (Go to Q21)

No - no activity or patient outcome KPI data is requested (Skip to Q23)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q21. If patient outcome KPI data is requested, what kind of patient outcomes are requested? Tick all that apply

Goal Attainment Scores

Improved mobility/balance

Pain score

Patient satisfaction

Socket Comfort score

Other – around waiting times, etc.

Q22. Does the service receive more funding if improved patient outcomes are achieved?

Yes

No

Q23. Does your patient records system support P&O patient outcome measures to be reported?

Yes

No

Q24. Has the service employed support workers or technicians to see patients?

Yes (Skip to Q26)

No ( Go to Q25)

Q25. Do the P&O clinicians in this service see low complexity patients who could be seen by a support worker or patient facing technician because the service does not employ a support worker or patient facing technician?

Yes, clinicians see low complexity patients who could be seen by a support worker or technician

No

Q26. Does the P&O clinical lead for this service have direct communication with the Trusts/Health Boards Lead AHP / Chief AHP / AHP Director/ Director of Therapies and Health Science?

Yes

No

Q27. Have any P&O clinicians in this service, recently or in the past, applied for a leadership role at the Trust/Health Board outside of the P&O service?

Yes, successfully applied for a leadership role

Yes, applied but were unsuccessful

No, unable to apply due to skills required

No, unable to apply as not an NHS employee (sub-contractor)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Q28. To meet growing demand for P&O services, is an increase in overall costs for this service built in to the financial element for this service year on year?

Yes, staff salary increase in line with AfC (Agenda for change) staff costs is built in

Yes, staff salary increase in line with AfC (Agenda for change) staff costs is built in

Yes, increase to cover AfC staff costs and inflation is built in

No, there is not a built-in increase to cover staff and other costs.

No, there is not a built-in increase as cost increases are required to be offset by efficiency initiatives

Unsure

Note: Planning assumptions are provided to ESHT by NHS England and NHS Sussex Integrated Care Board.



Q29. Has the service employed a graduate apprentice prosthetist or orthotist during the last 24 months?

Yes

No – go to Q31.

Q30. What salary do you pay the P&O graduate apprentices in this service during their apprenticeship?

AfC Band 2

AfC Band 3

AfC Band 4

Other (please state) \_\_\_\_\_

Not applicable.

Q31. Does this service follow The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO) recommended clinic appointment times of 30 minute and 60 minute time slots?

Yes

Yes along with 20 minute time slots where appropriate

No, planning to in the next 6 months

No, planning to in the next 12 months

No, not planned yet

Thank you for taking the time to complete this FOI.