

FOI 3369

23rd October 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

In the previous 12 months, how many posts within your Podiatry service have you had removed? What were the reasons?

Response:

In the previous 12 months the Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT) has not removed any Podiatry posts.

Have you stopped providing any services since August 2024?

Response:

The SHSCT has not stopped providing any podiatry services since August 2024.

If yes, please provide more detail.

Response:

Not applicable

Within your Podiatry service which NHS band are you finding it most difficult to recruit qualified podiatrists to?

Response:

The SHSCT find it most difficult to recruit qualified Podiatrists to Band 5 positions.

What number of podiatrists are you expecting to retire from your Podiatry service within the next five years?

Response:

Within the next five years the SHSCT expects approximately five podiatrists to retire from the service.

How many of the qualified podiatry workforce in your service are funded by short term funding?

Response:

Within SHSCT none of the qualified podiatry workforce in the service are funded by short term funding.

How many apprentices do you have in the Podiatry service?

Response:

The SHSCT has no apprentices within the Podiatry service.

How many support workers do you have in the Podiatry service?

Response:

The SHSCT has five Band 3 Podiatry Assistant Practitioners.

Are any of the posts within the Podiatry service externally funded?

Response:

None of the posts within the Podiatry service in SHSCT are externally funded.

What were the number of qualified podiatrist vacancies in your Podiatry (WTE) service on week commencing 12 August 2025?

Response:

On week commencing 12 August 2025, the SHSCT had two vacant Band 3 Podiatry Assistant posts, three vacant Band 5 and three Band 6 qualified Podiatrist vacancies.

What was your total qualified podiatry workforce in your service on a full-time equivalent basis (WTE) week commencing 12 August 2025 and Staff numbers (to capture part-time staff)? and the number of rheumatology posts

Please provide workforce No:s per band (WTE)

Response:

Band 1-4	3 x Band 3	(3.33wte)
Band 5	6 x Band 5	(4.2wte)
Band 6	21 x Band 6	(16.2wte)
Band 7	16 x Band 7	(12.72wte)
Band 8a	2 x Band 8a	(2wte)
Band 8b	1 x Band 8b	(1wte)
Band 8c	None	

Please provide your podiatry service specification?

Response:

The service is provided by a group of Registered Podiatrists and Podiatry Assistants who specialise in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of disease and conditions affecting the feet and lower limbs, including nail surgery and wound management. This includes assessment of the vascular, neurological and orthopaedic status of the patient's lower limbs. Following assessment, treatment is focused on restoring and maintaining functional

independence. Patients may be maintained on a caseload for ongoing care or discharged and issued with a personalised foot health plan, which offers the patient advice on how to maintain their own foot health.

Which of the following podiatry services does your Trust provide?

- Community High Risk foot/ Foot Protection Service
- Acute Multidisciplinary Wound Service
- Community MSK/Biomechanics
- Podiatric Surgery Musculoskeletal Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (MCATS)
- Domiciliary (inc social care)
- Core Podiatry
- Vascular
- Nail Surgery
- Prison Services
- Mental Health Services
- Homeless Service
- Inpatients
- Paediatrics

Response:

Within the SHSCT podiatry service the following services are provided:

- Community High Risk foot/ Foot Protection Service
- Acute Multidisciplinary Wound Service
- Community MSK/Biomechanics
- Podiatric Orthopaedic Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service (ICATS)
- Domiciliary
- Core Podiatry
- Vascular
- Nail Surgery
- Inpatients
- Paediatrics

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