

FOI 2648

25th September 2024

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

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**Q1. In the previous 12 months, how many posts within your Podiatry service have you had removed?**

**Response Q1:**

In the previous 12 months no posts within the SHSCT Podiatry Service have been removed.

**Q2. What were the reasons?**

**Response Q2:**

Not applicable.

**Q3. Have you stopped providing any services since August 2023? Yes / No**

**Response Q3:**

No. The Southern Health and Social Care Trust has not stopped providing any services since August 2023.

**Q4. If yes, please provide more detail.**

**Response Q4:**

Not applicable.

**Q5. Within your Podiatry Service, which NHS band are you finding it most difficult to recruit qualified podiatrists to? (choose up to 3)**

**Response Q5:**

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

**Q6. What number of podiatrists are you expecting to retire from your Podiatry service within the next five years?**

**Response Q6:**

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

**Q7. How many of the qualified podiatry workforce in your service are funded by short term funding?**

**Response Q7:**

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

**Q8. How many apprentices do you have in the Podiatry service?**

**Response Q8:**

The SHSCT has no apprentices within the Podiatry service.

**Q9. How many support workers do you have in the Podiatry service?**

**Response Q9:**

The SHSCT has six band 3 Podiatry Assistant practitioners.

**Q10. Are any of the posts within the Podiatry service externally funded?**

**Response Q10:**

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

**Q11. What were the number of qualified podiatrist vacancies in your Podiatry (WTE) service on week commencing 12 August 2024?**

**Response Q11:**

On week commencing 12 August 2024, the SHSCT had four vacant Band 5 qualified Podiatrist vacancies.

**Q12. What was your total qualified podiatry workforce in your service on a full-time equivalent basis (WTE) week commencing 12 August 2024**

- a. And Staff numbers (to capture part-time staff)?**
- b. And the number of rheumatology posts**

**Response Q12:**

On week commencing 12 August 2024, the SHSCT had a total of 46 qualified Podiatry professional staff in post equating to 40.52 whole time equivalent staff. SHSCT have no Rheumatology Podiatry posts.

**Q13. Please provide workforce no's per band (WTE)**

**Response Q13:**

Band 1-4: 6 Band 3, 4.81Wte  
Band 5: 5 Band 5, 4.4 wte  
Band 6: 22 Band 6, 15.59wte  
Band 7: 16 Band 7, 12.72wte

Band 8a: 2 Band 8a, 2wte  
Band 8b: 1 band 8b, 1 wte  
Band 8c: None

**Q14. Please provide your podiatry service specification?**

**Response Q14:**

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.

**Q15. 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 Q15:**

Within SHSCT the following Podiatry services are provided;

- Community High Risk foot
- Nail Surgery
- Foot Protection Service
- Acute Multidisciplinary Wound Service
- Community MSK
- Limited Inpatients
- Orthopaedic ICATS
- Domiciliary (not including social care)
- Core Podiatry
- Vascular Assessment, where indicated.

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