

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.094.24

13 November 2024

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information, which was received on 6 November 2024, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not hold the information that you require. For ease of reference your request is set out below and my response follows.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

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

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

Number of orthotists

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 into 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

Q7. Outside the usual requirement for fire safety, information governance, health & safety type training, is protected Training, Education and Development / CPD time built into 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 into 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 into 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				
Education courses				
Leadership courses				
Evidence/Research courses				

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

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 into 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, 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

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)

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

Powys Response:

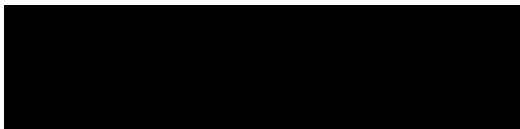
Q1- Q31. I can confirm there is no prosthetic service within Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) and orthotics is provided by external partner. Therefore, this is a nil response.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you

would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request, please contact us directly at the address below or register your complaint via powysfoi.foi@wales.nhs.uk

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 0330 414 6421.

Yours sincerely



David Farnsworth
Assistant Director, Community Services Group

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.