

Date: Thursday, 20th May 2021
Our Ref: MB/SS FOI 4720

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Re: Freedom of Information Request FOI 4720

We are writing in response to your request submitted under the Freedom of Information Act, received in this office on 29th April 2021.

Your request was as follows:

1. Which of the following Orthotic Services do you have locally?

- a. Product and Clinical service
- b. Product only in-house clinical service
- c. Clinical Service only
- d. Fully managed service

[The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust \(WCFT\) have a Product and Clinical service locally.](#)

2. If your service is run by a 3rd party:

- a. Who is your current provider?
- b. When did the current agreement start?
- c. When does the current agreement expire?
- d. What was the total value of the contract?
- e. Is there an allowance for increasing patient numbers and activity each year?
- f. Is the contract a lump sum / block contract or pay / BPR for activity basis?
- g. What is the current cost per Orthotist session in your trust?

- [a. Crispins Orthotics](#)
- [b. 01/10/19](#)
- [c. 31/09/21](#)



d. £216,780.00 (waiver value/estimated)

e. Yes

f. Activity based

g. £200

3. Do you run your tender in-house or is it outsourced?

We have the facility to run tenders via WCFT's Procurement Department.

4. Which frameworks are you able to buy from currently:

a. For Orthotic Clinical Service

b. For Orthotic stock products

c. For Orthotic bespoke products

The preferred orthotics frameworks are offered via NHS Supply Chain and NHS Shared Business Services.

5. Are you considering a tender at the moment? (Y/N)

Yes via a framework option.

6. What orthotics services are provided by the NHS in your jurisdiction?

Neurological & Neurosurgical.

7. How many sessions do you run per week:

a. Orthotist

b. LOP

c. Footwear technicians

WCFT run 3 Orthotist sessions a week.

8. How many Full Time equivalent Orthotists work in your Trust?

None.

9. How many appliance officers/administrators do you employ in the Orthotics Service?

1 WTE administrator who has Orthotic appointment coordination as one of their responsibilities in addition to other key roles & responsibilities. This role is not solely Orthotics.

10. Over the past three financial years how many orthotics patients were treated (please breakdown by year)?

- a. April 2018 - March 2019
- b. April 2019 - March 2020
- c. April 2020 - March 2021

- a. April 2018 - March 2019 - 326
- b. April 2019 - March 2020 - 365
- c. April 2020 - March 2021 - 294

11. For orthotic products:

- a. Which companies do you currently order Orthotic footwear from or do you make these in house?
- b. Which companies do you currently order insoles from or do you make these in house?
- c. Please provide annual volumes of prescriptions/orders and total spend for the last 12 months (April 2017 - March 2018) and the lead times for:
 - i. Stock Orthotic Footwear orders
 - ii. Modular Orthotic Footwear orders
 - iii. Bespoke Orthotic Footwear orders
 - iv. Orthotic Footwear repairs
 - v. Moulded EVA Insoles
 - vi. Plastic Heel cups
 - vii. Carbon Fibre Insoles
 - viii. Bespoke AFOs

Please see attachments for products ordered in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

I confirm that The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested regarding prices of products. However, I am unable to provide you with that information as I consider that the following exemptions apply to it:

Section 43 (2) – Disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person



This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We cannot provide information requested as your query on the grounds that the withheld information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (an individual, a company, the public authority itself or any other legal entity). In order to apply section 43(2), the public authority must satisfy itself that disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice or harm the commercial interests of any person. If The Walton Centre did disclose this information this would affect suppliers by companies undercutting product prices.

Public Interest Test

To use this exception we are required to undertake a public interest test. The matters which were considered in applying the public interest test are as follows:

Factors in favour of disclosure:

- It would enable the public to better scrutinise the public monies spent.

Factors in favour of withholding:

- Releasing the requested information could prejudice the WCFT's current or future negotiation capabilities.

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FOIA.

Please see our response above in [blue](#).

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

All information supplied by the Trust in answering a request for information (RFI) under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 will be subject to the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005, Statutory Instrument 2005 No. 1515 which came into effect on 1st July 2005.

Under the terms of the Regulations, the Trust will licence the re-use of any or all information supplied if being used in a form and for the purpose other than which it was originally supplied. This license for re-use will be in line with the requirements of the Regulations and the licensing terms and fees as laid down by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI). Most licenses will be free; however the Trust reserves the right, in certain circumstances, to charge a fee for the re-use of some information which it deems to be of commercial value.

Further information can be found at www.opsi.gov.uk where a sample license terms and fees can be found with guidance on copyright and publishing notes and a Guide to Best Practice and regulated advice and case studies, at www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/psi-regulations/index.htm

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Office at the address above.

Please remember to quote the reference number, FOI 4720 in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Mike Burns

Mr. Mike Burns, Executive Lead for Freedom of Information