

Reference Number: FOI2021/259
From: Commercial
Date: 26 July 2021
Subject: Employment of porters and dispatching to tasks

Q1 Can the Trust please provide the total number porters that are currently employed/contracted to perform porter services across the Trust's Hospitals? (This total number of porters can include individual part-time, bank and permanent porter staff that are directly employed by the Trust or porter support procured through a private service provider).

A1 Actual Porters employed including WTE, Part time and BANK Staff = 30

Q2 Can the Trust please identify the name(s) of the current system(s) used by Trust staff to dispatch porters to jobs around the Trust's Hospitals on a daily basis? (e.g. Push To Talk Radio / Bleeper, Smart Phone / Tablet Application, Excel Spreadsheet, Paper-based System and/or Task Management Software on a Computer). By "Dispatch" we refer to the process of activating an individual Porter to take on a specific Job with the hospital.

A2 Currently use telephone and two-way radios to dispatch porters, also Bleep system for emergencies

Q3 Can the Trust please provide clarification on the current contractual relationship of porter support, by this I mean - are porters directly employed by the Trust? or can the Trust provide both the name of the private provider contracted to deliver porter services and the time frame remaining on that contract until review?

A3 Inhouse service – Directly employed by the trust

Q4 Finally can the Trust please provide an updated estimate of the total number of 'acute care' beds currently dispersed across its hospital site(s)?

A4 The Trust currently has 149 General & Acute Care beds.