

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PODIATRY STAFFING**

I write in response to your request for information in relation to Podiatry staffing.

Question:

1. What was the total qualified podiatry workforce in your Health Board on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis on 1st March 2025, including bandings?
2. What was the total qualified podiatry workforce in your Health Board on a full time equivalent (FTE) basis on 1st March 2026?
3. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board what number of vacancies were there on 1st March 2026, and for which bandings?

Answer:

[NHS Scotland workforce | Turas Data Intelligence](#)

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Open the “Employment Over Time” report from the left-hand menu. Under NHS Board, select: East → NHS Lothian. Under Job Family, choose: Allied Health Professions. Expand further to select sub job family → Podiatry Under Band/Grade, select: Qualified (you can drill down further if needed). WTE/Headcount: choose whichever measure you require. |
| 2. | See response to question 1 above.   |
| 3. | Open the “Vacancy” report from the left-hand menu. On top of report for 'View data for:', ensure Allied Health Professions is selected. Under NHS Board, select: East → NHS Lothian. Under Sub Job Family, choose: Podiatry Under Band Group, select: Qualified Number/vacancy rate: choose whichever measure you require.                            |

Question:

4. How many roles within the Podiatry department in your Health Board have been advertised from 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026, and at which bandings?

5. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board how many applications did you receive per post advertised between 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026
6. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board of the posts advertised between 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026 how many received no applications?
7. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board of the posts advertised between 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026, how many roles were you unable to appoint? Please give reason, if known.

Answer:

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4. | 22 posts ranging from B5 - B7 (see table below for exact figures by band) |
| 5. | See table below   |
| 6. | 0   |
| 7. | 5 posts   |

Question:

8. Within the Podiatry department in your Health Board of the posts advertised between 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026 which banding it is your Health Board having the most difficulty to recruit qualified podiatrists to?

Answer:

| Post Title   | Number of posts | Applications per post | How many Appointed | Band |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------|
| Advanced Practice Podiatrist                           | 1               | 4                     | 1                  | B7   |
| Specialist Podiatrist with interest in Foot Protection | 3               | 6                     | 3                  | B6   |
| Podiatrist   | 4               | 3                     | 2                  | B5   |
| Specialist Podiatrist                                  | 3               | 5                     | 2                  | B6   |
| Podiatrist   | 5               | 8                     | 5                  | B5   |
| Advanced Podiatrist - Foot Protection/Diabetes         | 1               | 7                     | 0                  | B7   |
| Specialist Podiatrist with interest in high risk foot  | 2               | 2                     | 2                  | B6   |
| Podiatrist   | 3               | 6                     | 2                  | B5   |

Question:

9. How many podiatrists left the Health Board between 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026 (Please specify WTE and bandings)

Answer:

| Band   | WTE |
|--------|-----|
| Band 5 | 5.4 |
| Band 6 | 5.3 |
| Band 7 | 5<  |



Question:

10. Of those who left your Health Board between 1st March 2025 to 1st March 2026 specify their reason for leaving
  - a. Retirement
  - b. Change of career
  - c. Private practice
  - d. Other

Answer:

| <b>Leaving Reason</b>                    | <b>WTE</b> |
|--|------------|
| New employment with NHS outwith Scotland | 5<         |
| New employment with NHS Scotland         | 5<         |
| Retirement - age                         | 5<         |
| Vol. resignation - Other                 | 5<         |

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the tables above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner’s Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner’s response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.



FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive