

FOI 0122/2021 Response

Request

I am writing to the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust FOI team to request information on Estates, Facilities & Ancillary Departments, specifically relating to the current management of hospital Porters. My enquiry is being submitted from the organisation called Innovise Software (Trading as TEAM Software). The information requested below has not been located within any of the Trust's Disclosure Logs or the 'Publication Scheme'. The date today is 26/07/2021, I understand that should the trust require additional clarification on the below questions this could delay the mandated FOI response time frame.

Can the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust please provide 4 responses to the 4 questions below:

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. 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?
4. Finally can the Trust please provide an updated estimate of the total number of 'acute care' beds currently dispersed across its hospital site(s)?

Response

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There are total of 20 porters.

This consists of 2 porters within the Trust and 18 in Summerhill Services Limited (SSL).

Please note that SSL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT) and provides a range of services, from Facilities Management Services, to PFI Contract Management, to Transport Services and more.

2. 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.

Please note that Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust explicitly provide mental health services and is not an acute Trust. We therefore do not have specific jobs and jobs are issued on an ad-hoc basis.

Furthermore, Porters have mobile phones, and the jobs are deployed via the phones as and when they arise.

3. 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?

Porters are either directly employed by the Trust or via the Trust's private finance initiative (PFI) provider who contract Porters from Amey Built Environment.

Please note that for Porters contracted via the PFI providers, the contract end date is April 2026.

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

As of 3rd August 2021, there are 299 acute care beds.

Please note that we have defined acute care as Adult services including Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICUs) and Older adults.