

Ref. No: 210260721
From: Commercial
Date: 26/07/21
Subject: Porter Support

REQUEST & RESPONSE

On two of the hospital sites - St Helens and Whiston; the Facilities Management Services are provided under the Trusts PFI (private finance initiative) contract with NewHospitals, which also provides the hospital buildings and infrastructure. The Trusts PFI contract term is for a period of 35 years which runs to August 2047.

All the Soft FM Services on these two sites are managed by our partner Medirest this includes the Porter Service

The Trust also has Newton Community Hospital site and the portering service is managed directly by the Trust.

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).

There are 140 porters employed to perform porter services across the Trust's Hospitals

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.

At St Helens and Whiston Hospitals all requests go through the FM helpdesk software (Maximo) and the jobs are then dispatched via a push to talk radio. At Newton Community Hospital all requests go directly to the porter via a push to talk radio or mobile.

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?

A total of 140 Porters are employed at St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust:-

133 Porters working across two sites (St Helens and Whiston); these porters are managed by our PFI soft FM provider Medirest

7 Porters working at Newton Community Hospital; these porters are directly managed by the Trust.

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)?

The Trust has approximately 707 acute beds across its hospital sites.