

Mr H Steenkoolstad

Freedom of Information Team  
NHS High Weald Lewes Havens CCG  
36-38 Friars Walk  
Lewes  
BN7 2PB

**By Email only**

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Tel: 01273 485 300  
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Web: [www.highwealdleweshavensccg.nhs.uk](http://www.highwealdleweshavensccg.nhs.uk)

24 September 2019

Dear Mr Steenkoolstad

**FOI Response: Orthotic Support Devices For Wheelchair (2533)**

I am writing to confirm that NHS High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has now completed its search for the information that you requested on 29 August 2019 relating to **Orthotic Support Devices For Wheelchair**. Your request has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and our target date for the response was 26 September 2019.

The CCG's response to your request is attached to this letter.

We hope this information is helpful. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response or the way in which your request was handled, please contact:

FOI Team  
NHS High Weald Lewes Havens CCG  
36-38 Friars Walk  
Lewes  
BN7 2PB

or by email to Email: [hwlhccg.FOI@nhs.net](mailto:hwlhccg.FOI@nhs.net) giving your reasons.

If you are still dissatisfied with the outcome, you have the right to appeal. In order to do so, please contact:

FOI Complaints Resolution  
The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House

Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 0303 123 1113

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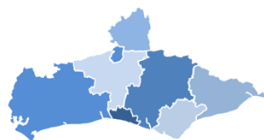
*Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at the address above.*

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read or if you use British Sign Language, please let us know by using the email address or phone number above.

Yours sincerely

**Senior FOI Officer**

**NHS High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group  
Sussex and East Surrey Clinical Commissioning Groups**



**24 September 2019**

**Freedom Of Information Response: Orthotic Support Devices For Wheelchair (2533)**

Response to Freedom Of Information request received on 29 August 2019 for information relating to **Orthotic Support Devices For Wheelchair**.

Type of request *Freedom Of Information*  
Requested received by: *Email*

NHS High Weald Lewes Havens CCG's response of **24 September 2019** is:

*Who have you commissioned to provide any of the following orthotic devices which are vital to prevent damage and pain to the lower spine in long-term manual wheelchair users:*

1. *A measured spinal-restriction-brace, designed to stop long-term wheelchair users prevent stress induced damage and pain to their lumbar-sacrum region, where the spine joins the pelvis;*
2. *Power-assist motors such as:*
  - \* *Trike attachments*
  - \* *Pushers such as the Alber Smoov and Permobil Smart-drive*
  - \* *Joystick and push-rim controlled hub motors?*

**Millbrook Healthcare (East Sussex Wheelchair Service) provide orthotic services for NHS High Weald Lewes Havens Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and maybe able to provide the equipment outlined in the above question. East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) also provide some Orthotics for East Sussex residents however the CCG does not have the level of detail requested please re-direct your request to ESHT at: [esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)**

3. *Please send me the minutes of the meetings discussing this essential support for wheelchair users, and a copy of the contract you commissioned.*

**These contracts are national NHS Standard contracts which can be reviewed here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/19-20/>. Copies of minutes would be held by Millbrook Healthcare and ESHT (see above to redirect your request to ESHT).**

*B. If nothing has been commissioned, or if nothing has been considered for commissioning, what is the official protocol to get the consideration of such orthotic devices put onto the agenda? Is there a form members of the public can fill in?*

**The CCG commissions ESHT to provide orthotic services and equipment (see above to redirect your request to ESHT).**

*C. Has the CCG commissioned a study showing how many people have been immobilised with medical complications because the essential orthotic devices are not freely accessible, and what the cost is to the health system for these avoidable medical complications? If no such study has been undertaken, has one ever been suggested, and why was the study not actioned? How can such a study be instigated?*

**No survey has been commissioned or suggested. The CCG does not hold the information on the cost to the health system. Any such study would be instigated through the provider (Millbrook Healthcare and ESHT).**

*D. Please also provide data showing if any of the above orthotic devices have been provided under the Individual Funding Request system, and if so, which overseeing clinical pathway was responsible for identifying the device required, eg:*

*GP*

*Wheelchair service*

*Orthotic Department*

*Spinal Orthopedic Surgeon*

*Neurologist*

*Neurosurgeon*

*Pain Clinic*

*Orthotic Department*

*Occupational Therapy Department*

*Physiotherapy Department*

*Etc.*

**The CCG has not had any Individual Funding Requests for any of the above orthotic devices.**

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