Torbay and South Devon
NHS Foundation Trust

Email: foi.tsdft@nhs.net
Our Ref: TSD10673

2 November 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Request for Information

We are writing to confirm that we have now completed our search for the information you requested.

A copy of the information is below:

Please provide responses to each of the following questions. Where a question is not applicable to your organisation, please state "Not Applicable" and briefly explain why.

No.	Question	Response Format	Response
1	**Does your Trust/Health Board currently have an orthotics service?**	**Yes / No**	Yes
2	**Does your Trust/Health Board provide bracing (chest brace and/or vacuum bell) for Pectus deformities?**	**Yes / No**	No
3	**If you answered Yes to Question 2: Does your service provide bracing for Pectus Carinatum, Pectus Excavatum, or both?**	**Pectus Carinatum / Pectus Excavatum / Both / Not applicable**	Not applicable
4	**If you answered Yes to Question 2: Is the orthotics service responsible for the provision of the brace and/or vacuum bell?**	**Yes / No / Not applicable**	Not applicable
5	**If you answered No to Question 4: Which service is responsible for the provision of the brace and/or vacuum bell?**	**Free text / Not applicable**	Plymouth or Exeter
6	**If you answered No to Question 2: Are there any plans for your Trust/Health Board to begin providing this service?**	**Yes / No / Not Applicable**	Not Applicable

7	**Over the last 3 years, have you seen an increase in the number of referrals for bracing of Pectus conditions?**	**Yes / No / Don't know**	No

Although we have an orthotics service, we refer patients with this condition to larger centres rather than treating them locally.

Definitions and Clarifications

For the purposes of this request:

- **Orthotics service** refers to the provision of orthoses (external devices such as braces, splints, and insoles) and associated clinical services to patients with musculoskeletal, neurological, or other conditions.
- **Pectus Carinatum** refers to a chest wall deformity in which the sternum and ribs protrude outward (sometimes referred to as "pigeon chest").
- **Pectus Excavatum** refers to a chest wall deformity in which the sternum and ribs grow abnormally, producing a caved-in or sunken appearance of the chest (sometimes referred to as "funnel chest").
- **Bracing** refers to the use of an external orthotic device intended to apply corrective pressure to the chest wall to manage Pectus Carinatum or Pectus Excavatum. For the purposes of this request, bracing includes both *chest braces* and *vacuum bells*.
- **Provision** refers to the assessment and fitting of the device.
- **Referral** refers to a patient being formally referred to your orthotics service (or a contracted provider on your behalf) for assessment and/or treatment of a Pectus deformity, irrespective of whether bracing was ultimately provided.

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If you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us, quoting the FOI reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the way in which we have handled your request, please contact the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead in the first instance. If you wish to make a formal complaint, you should write to our Complaints Manager at Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, First Floor Bowyer Building, Torbay Hospital, Torquay TQ2 7AA or by email to tsdft.feedback@nhs.net

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner will only make a decision once you have exhausted the complaints and/or internal review process provided by us. The Information Commissioner can be contacted

at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or through this link https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team