

Date 18 September 2026
Your Ref FOI-2026-3461
Our Ref FOI-2026-3461

Enquiries to [REDACTED]
Email psd.foi@nhs.scot

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Reference FOI-2026-3461

I refer to your Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) request that we received on 20 August 2026 requesting the following information:

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 concerning the Scottish Specialist Prosthetics Service (SSPS) and the provision of specialist prosthetic foot and ankle technology.

Published information concerning the Scottish Specialist Prosthetics Service refers to specialist foot and ankle joints and self-aligning ankle-feet.

I would therefore be grateful for the following existing recorded information.

1. Current eligibility and prescribing criteria

Please provide the current SSPS clinical eligibility and prescription criteria for:

- specialist foot and ankle joints;
- self-aligning ankle-feet;
- hydraulic ankle-foot systems;
- microprocessor-controlled ankle-foot systems;
- powered or electronically controlled ankle-foot systems.

2. Devices available through SSPS

Please provide the current list, formulary, prescribing matrix or schedule of ankle-foot devices which may be funded or supplied through SSPS.

In particular, please provide the recorded status of:

- Blatchford Elan / ElanIC;
- Blatchford Echelon;

Chair Mr Keith Redpath
Chief Executive Professor Karen Reid

- Blatchford Echelon VT;
- Ottobock Meridium;
- Ottobock Empower;
- Össur Proprio Foot;
- any other microprocessor-controlled, powered, electronically controlled or self-adjusting ankle-foot system.

Please indicate, where recorded, whether each is:

- routinely available;
- available subject to clinical criteria;
- restricted;
- exceptional funding only;
- available for clinical trial;
- or not available.

3. Devices actually provided

For each of the following financial years, please provide the number of devices approved, funded or supplied through SSPS, broken down by model where this information is held:

- 2023/24;
- 2024/25;
- 2025/26;
- 2026/27 to the date of this request.

In particular, please provide figures for:

- Elan / ElanIC;
- Meridium;
- Empower;
- Proprio Foot;
- Echelon / Echelon VT;
- other advanced electronic or microprocessor ankle-foot systems.

No patient-identifiable information is requested.

4. Applications and outcomes

Please provide the number of applications or referrals for specialist ankle-foot technology during the above periods which were:

- approved;
- declined;
- deferred for further assessment;
- approved following a clinical trial.

5. Clinical criteria

Please provide any written criteria used when considering a patient for specialist ankle-foot technology, including any recorded consideration of:

- **bilateral lower-limb amputation;**
- **falls risk;**
- **slopes, stairs and uneven terrain;**
- **restricted knee function or other joint impairment;**
- **pain or abnormal joint loading;**
- **energy expenditure;**
- **community mobility;**
- **employment or occupational requirements;**
- **rehabilitation potential.**

6. Component trials

Please provide any current policy concerning clinical trials of advanced prosthetic ankle-foot components, including:

- **manufacturer demonstration devices;**
- **loan components;**
- **comparative component trials;**
- **trials prior to a final funding decision.**

7. Financial criteria

Please provide any:

- **financial threshold;**
- **price ceiling;**
- **additional approval procedure;**
- **exceptional funding mechanism applicable to specialist ankle-foot prescriptions.**

8. Reviews of advanced ankle technology

Please provide copies of any product evaluations, technology reviews, committee papers, formulary reviews or policy reviews produced since 1 April 2023 concerning:

- **Elan / ElanIC;**
- **Meridium;**
- **Empower;**
- **Proprio Foot;**
- **microprocessor ankle-foot systems generally;**
- **powered ankle-foot systems;**
- **self-aligning ankle-feet.**

9. Referral and cross-border access

Please provide the current referral pathway to the Scottish Specialist Prosthetics Service, including:

- **which clinicians may refer;**
- **whether referral must originate from a Scottish prosthetic centre;**
- **residency requirements;**
- **whether cross-border NHS referrals from England, Wales or Northern Ireland can be accepted;**
- **whether a patient ordinarily resident in England can be assessed or treated by SSPS where their English NHS commissioner agrees to fund the assessment or treatment.**

10. Which organisation holds the information?

Where different elements of this request are held separately by:

- **NHS National Services Scotland;**
- **WestMARC / NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde;**
- **SMART / NHS Lothian,**

please identify which body holds the relevant information rather than treating those portions simply as unanswered.

I would prefer the information electronically and, where numerical information already exists in spreadsheet form, Excel or CSV format would be appreciated if practicable.

I am requesting existing recorded information only and do not require staff to create new clinical opinions or analysis.

If the scope of this request would exceed the applicable cost limit, please provide advice and assistance on how it may reasonably be narrowed while preserving the principal questions and, where practicable, provide those portions which can be answered within the limit.

Where information is withheld, please identify the exemption relied upon and explain its application.

After a search of our records Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland) can confirm the following:

National Services Directorate (NSD), a Directorate within PSD Scotland, commissions the Scottish Specialist Prosthetics Service (SSPS) as a national specialist service on behalf of all NHSScotland Health Boards. The service is based in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Lothian.

1. Current eligibility and prescribing criteria

Please provide the current SSPS clinical eligibility and prescription criteria for:

- **specialist foot and ankle joints;**
- **self-aligning ankle-feet;**
- **hydraulic ankle-foot systems;**
- **microprocessor-controlled ankle-foot systems;**
- **powered or electronically controlled ankle-foot systems.**

The eligibility criteria are set out in the Service Schedule, which forms part of the Service Agreement between NSD and the host Health Boards.

- **Self aligning ankle foot devices**

People who are full time, active users of a prosthesis and encounter stairs and slopes on a regular basis **and** who are already high K3 or K4 users (using the Bilateral AMP Pro outcome measure) who do not put exceptionally high forces or impact through their prosthetic feet **and** who can evidence, through trial, that they can tolerate the additional weight of the ankle and benefit from the additional functionality of these devices may be considered for some self-aligning foot and ankle units.

- **Microprocessor Ankle Foot Devices**

People who have a unilateral transtibial amputation and are a service attributable veteran.

People who have severe limitations with their contralateral limb (not dysvascular) where a hydraulic foot and ankle would not meet their needs, i.e. fractures that limit range of movement or conditions that impair balance, then they may be considered for microprocessor controlled foot and ankle.

OR

People with bilateral transtibial amputations who can demonstrate through trial that they can tolerate the additional weight of the microprocessor foot and ankle and benefit from the additional functionality of these devices.

2. Devices available through SSPS

Please provide the current list, formulary, prescribing matrix or schedule of ankle-foot devices which may be funded or supplied through SSPS.

In particular, please provide the recorded status of:

- **Blatchford Elan / ElanIC;**
- **Blatchford Echelon;**
- **Blatchford Echelon VT;**
- **Ottobock Meridium;**
- **Ottobock Empower;**
- **Össur Proprio Foot;**
- **any other microprocessor-controlled, powered, electronically controlled or self-adjusting ankle-foot system.**

Please indicate, where recorded, whether each is:

- routinely available;
- available subject to clinical criteria;
- restricted;
- exceptional funding only;
- available for clinical trial;
- or not available.

Under [Section 17 of FOISA for "Information not held"](#) PSD Scotland does not hold this information however; the Service Schedule notes that *"SSPS will prescribe from a list of specialist devices."*

3. Devices actually provided

For each of the following financial years, please provide the number of devices approved, funded or supplied through SSPS, broken down by model where this information is held:

- 2023/24;
- 2024/25;
- 2025/26;
- 2026/27 to the date of this request.

In particular, please provide figures for:

- Elan / ElanIC;
- Meridium;
- Empower;
- Proprio Foot;
- Echelon / Echelon VT;
- other advanced electronic or microprocessor ankle-foot systems.

No patient-identifiable information is requested.

The following data is available from the service in relation to the number of Foot and Ankle devices have been allocated to patients. NSD does not hold data broken down by model.

Table 1

Device	2026/27 (to 31 st July)	2025/26	2024/25
Total Hydraulic Feet and Ankles	15	105	109

4. Applications and outcomes

Please provide the number of applications or referrals for specialist ankle-foot technology during the above periods which were:

- approved;
- declined;

- deferred for further assessment;
- approved following a clinical trial.

This data on the number of devices declined is available for the past three years and is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Device	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24
Hydraulic Feet + Ankles Not approved	6	3	3

Reasons for not being approved included: not meeting eligibility criteria, device was still in warranty and could be repaired and socket and suspension issues needed to be addressed prior to SSPS provision.

Under [Section 17 of FOISA for “Information not held”](#) PSD Scotland does not hold information in relation to the following:

- deferred for further assessment.
- approved following a clinical trial.

5. Clinical criteria

Please provide any written criteria used when considering a patient for specialist ankle-foot technology, including any recorded consideration of:

- bilateral lower-limb amputation;
- falls risk;
- slopes, stairs and uneven terrain;
- restricted knee function or other joint impairment;
- pain or abnormal joint loading;
- energy expenditure;
- community mobility;
- employment or occupational requirements;
- rehabilitation potential.

The eligibility as set out in the Service Schedule is as follows:

- **Self-aligning ankle foot devices**

People who are full time, active users of a prosthesis and encounter stairs and slopes on a regular basis and who are already high K3 or K4 users (using the Bilateral AMP Pro outcome measure) who do not put exceptionally high forces or impact through their prosthetic feet and who can evidence, through trial, that they can tolerate the additional weight of the ankle and benefit from the additional functionality of these devices may be considered for some self-aligning foot and ankle units.

- **Microprocessor Ankle Foot Devices**

People who have a unilateral transtibial amputation and are a service attributable veteran.

People who have severe limitations with their contralateral limb (not dysvascular) where a hydraulic foot and ankle would not meet their needs, i.e. fractures that limit range of movement or conditions that impair balance, then they may be considered for microprocessor controlled foot and ankle

or

People with bilateral transtibial amputations who can demonstrate through trial that they can tolerate the additional weight of the microprocessor foot and ankle and benefit from the additional functionality of these devices.

6. Component trials

Please provide any current policy concerning clinical trials of advanced prosthetic ankle-foot components, including:

- **manufacturer demonstration devices;**
- **loan components;**
- **comparative component trials;**
- **trials prior to a final funding decision.**

Under [Section 17 of FOISA for “Information not held”](#) PSD Scotland does not hold information in relation to component trials.

7. Financial criteria

Please provide any:

- **financial threshold;**
- **price ceiling;**
- **additional approval procedure;**
- **exceptional funding mechanism applicable to specialist ankle-foot prescriptions.**

Under [Section 17 of FOISA for “Information not held”](#) PSD Scotland does not hold information in relation to individual costs of devices.

8. Reviews of advanced ankle technology

Please provide copies of any product evaluations, technology reviews, committee papers, formulary reviews or policy reviews produced since 1 April 2023 concerning:

- **Elan / ElanIC;**
- **Meridium;**
- **Empower;**
- **Proprio Foot;**
- **microprocessor ankle-foot systems generally;**
- **powered ankle-foot systems;**
- **self-aligning ankle-feet.**

Under [Section 17 of FOISA for “Information not held”](#) PSD Scotland does not hold this information.

9. Referral and cross-border access

Please provide the current referral pathway to the Scottish Specialist Prosthetics Service, including:

- **which clinicians may refer;**
- **whether referral must originate from a Scottish prosthetic centre;**
- **residency requirements;**
- **whether cross-border NHS referrals from England, Wales or Northern Ireland can be accepted;**
- **whether a patient ordinarily resident in England can be assessed or treated by SSPS where their English NHS commissioner agrees to fund the assessment or treatment.**

Referrals to the service are accepted from the 5 regional prosthetics services in Scotland, in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness and will be expected from patients in all parts of Scotland. The service also accepts referrals for patients who are resident in Scotland but whose primary Prosthetic centre is Carlisle.

It is expected that referrals from West and North Boards will be managed at the WestMARC in Glasgow and referrals from East and North Boards will be managed at SMART, Edinburgh. Patient preference, including family support or *other factors will be considered if their designated SSPS centre is not suitable.*

Patients from other parts of the UK can be seen by services in Scotland if appropriate funding mechanisms are in place, as per existing agreements with the 4 nations.

10. Which organisation holds the information?

Where different elements of this request are held separately by:

- **NHS National Services Scotland;**
- **WestMARC / NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde;**
- **SMART / NHS Lothian,**

PSD Scotland has provided information where we hold it, however, for questions 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8 both NHS Lothian and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde may hold the remaining information.

We suggest that you contact both NHS Lothian and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde directly using the below email addresses, as under the terms of FOISA we are unable to transfer this request on your behalf.

NHS Lothian: loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde: foi@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

It is important to note that from 1 April 2026, NSS and NHS Education for Scotland (NES) joined to form PSD Scotland, enabling transformation in health, social care, and the wider public sector. The new direct PSD Scotland FOI email address is now psd.foi@nhs.scot

More information regarding PSD Scotland can be found at the following URL: [Public Services Delivery Scotland \(PSD Scotland\)](#)

I hope that you will find this response helpful and if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot

If you are unhappy with any aspect of how we have dealt with your request, you can make representations to us asking us to review the handling of your request. Please write to the Associate Director Corporate Governance using the email address psd.foi@nhs.scot within 40 working days of the date of this correspondence.

If after a review you are still unhappy, you also have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at Kinburn Castle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, or via their [online Appeal form](#).

Yours sincerely,

