

**Freedom of Information Request**

**Ref: 21-654**

20 December 2021

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

**1. Do you have a budget for providing low and mid tech communication aid devices for adults (18 or over) with speech difficulties (e.g. iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids), and if yes how much was this budget for this and the last two financial years (2021, 2020, 2019)?**

No

**2. If yes, how many adults (18 or over) with speech difficulties were provided with a low or mid tech communication aid (e.g., iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard-based communication aids) that was funded or provided by your Trust in this and the last two financial years (2021, 2020, 2019), and what devices were provided?**

Not applicable

**3. If yes, how many adults (18 or over) with a diagnosis of motor neurone disease were provided with a low or mid tech communication aid (e.g., iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard-based communication aids) that was funded or provided by your Trust in this and the last two financial years (2021, 2020, 2019), and what devices were provided?**

Not applicable

**4. If you do not have a budget for providing low and mid tech communication aid devices (e.g., iPads and tablets, text to speech apps, keyboard based communication aids) how should a local, community or acute based speech and language therapist working for your organisation make available assessment and provision of these devices for adults (18 or over) living with speech difficulties?**

Speech & Language Therapists working for our organisation have available an assessment tool to guide selection of an appropriate aid (The Frenchay Screening Tool for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, AAC), and can refer patients to , Augmentative and

Alternative Communication (AAC) at Bristol Centre for Enablement, who will fund devices for patients who meet their criteria

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Director of Corporate Governance  
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust  
Trust Headquarters  
Marlborough Street  
Bristol  
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

#### Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust**