

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 22-499

9 September 2022

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) Has the Trust ever used any form of pet therapy or animal assisted therapy in your hospitals?

Yes.

2) If your Trust has used such services how have they been provided to the Trust i.e. Voluntary or funded by the Trust and has this remained the same or changed between voluntary and funded?

Voluntary.

3) What do you estimate the cost to be to the Trust of using animal assisted therapy by year for the last 5 years (if applicable?)

Not applicable.

4) Who is responsible within the Trust for organising Pet Therapy Services?

The Voluntary Services Coordinator.

5) What policies and procedures have been put in place as safeguards for using animals in hospitals?

Public Liability Insurance (for Pets as Therapy (PAT) and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW), Memorandum of Understanding between University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) and Pets as Therapy (PAT), University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust Risk Assessment, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust Pets as Therapy (PAT) Visiting Guidelines, Pets as Therapy (PAT) Establishment Guidelines/Risk Assessment.

6) What qualifications / certifications does the Trust expect therapy animals to hold to guarantee patient safety?

Dogs are required to pass the Pets as Therapy (PAT) Dog assessment process and have a valid registration card.

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:

Data Protection Officer
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