

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-957

19 December 2024

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

I would like to request the following information under FOI.

- 1. A copy of your pathway for assessment and provision of non- specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), this includes tablet based devices, text to speech devices and apps but not equipment provided by the specialist hubs (eg eyegaze)**
- 2. The number of patients (adult and children) assessed for a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)**
- 3. The number of patients (adult and children) provided with a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)**
- 4. Your budget for 2023 and 2023 for the provision of non-specialist communication aids eg boogie boards, lightwrichters, tablets and apps that require direct access NOT eyegaze**
- 5. If provision of non-specialist communication aids is on a loan basis, then how long is this for eg 3 months, or as long as required**
- 6. If you do not have a budget for providing non-specialist 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?**
- 7. The number of patients supported with a non-specialist communication aid via an**

individual funding requests

We do not hold this information. Please contact the NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board at bnssg.foi@nhs.net for further information.

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