

Our Ref: CTFOI1693

17th January 2022

Quality and Governance Service
Wirral Community Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust
Wing 5, 1st Floor
St Catherine's Health Centre
Derby Road
Birkenhead
Wirral
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Original Request and Response

I would like to request the following information via a Freedom of Information Request:

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)?

Trust Response – No, we do not have a budget for providing the low and mid tech communication aid devices given in the examples.

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?

Trust Response – 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?

Trust Response – 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?

5.

Trust Response – The team can produce low tech communication aids (paper based) from resources already in the department and the team have an E-Tran frame which can be used for eye gaze assessment.

The team were gifted an iPad from the MNDA which they use for assessment of patients with MND. The team tend to refer these patients to the ACE Centre North for low, mid and high tech AAC devices following assessment. The assessment and equipment is funded by NHS England.

If you are not satisfied that your Freedom of Information request has been dealt with in an adequate manner, you have the right to request a review, requiring us to review our action and response. To request a review of this response, please contact the FOI Officer, Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust, St Catherine's Health Centre, Derby Road, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH42 0LQ or email: WCNT.foi@nhs.net. You will receive a full response to your request for review within 20 working days of its receipt.

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your request for review, you may ask the Information Commissioner to review our decision: The Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF, Telephone: 01625 545700.



**Wirral Community Health and Care
NHS Foundation Trust**

Chair: Professor Michael Brown CBE DL
Chief Executive: Karen Howell