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Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

5th March 2025

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[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Non-specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) 2023 & 2024

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold some of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below. Please accept our apologies for the delay.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details
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)	This data is not collected.			
2. The number of patients (adult and children) assessed for a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)	9 patients were assessed in our ICSS (Integrated Community Stroke Service). We do not have this data for our inpatient cohort because this information is not held by the team.			
3. The number of patients (adult and children) provided with a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)	This data is not collected.			
4. Your budget for 2023 and 2023 for the provision of non-specialist communication aids eg boogie boards, lightwrighters, tablets and apps that require direct access NOT eyegaze	The non pay budget is not separated down to this level.			
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	We do not loan this type of equipment.			
6. If you do not have a budget for providing non-specialist communication aid devices how should a local, community or acute based speech & language therapist working for your organisation make available assessment & provision of these devices for adults	Advice is given to the patient on self provision or onward referral to community SLT service who can then make a specialist AAC referral if required.			
7. The number of patients supported with a non-specialist communication aid via an individual funding requests	0 patients.			

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)	There is not a pathway in place as the Speech and Language Therapist would assess their patient and, using clinical reasoning, decided relevant treatment options.			
3. The number of patients (adult and children) provided with a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)	5 in total.			

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, 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: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.

4

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