



Freedom of Information Team  
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Date: 12/01/2022

Ref: 21-22 479

### **Freedom of Information request**

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 15/12/2021. Please see responses to your requests below.

- 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?**

The Trust purchase low tech devices such as E-tran frames but rely on charitable funds for more expensive equipment. The Trust have a range of switches, message mate devices and one iPad that is used by patients, but we are unable to identify how many patients use this equipment as it is not logged on our systems.

Charitable funds purchased two new Lightwriters in 2020 for the Medicine and Older Persons team and the Rehabilitation Team, this equipment is also suitable for motor neurone patients and other severe dysarthric patients, again we are unable to identify how many patients use this equipment as it is not logged on our systems.

Electro larynxes are all purchased from the Trust's Head and Neck /ENT department and the department would always ask for charitable funding/ request assessments from suppliers if they are needed in the acute setting, community teams will often advise and have provided short term loans in the past for specialist equipment.

Most specialist devices are purchased in the community setting where they have a designated speech and language therapist to apply for funding/ arrange assessments.

The Trust believe patients should have access to specialist assessments if needed and the Trust would always fully support this.

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on [Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk](mailto:Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk) or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information, please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team