

03/10/2022

Dear Requester,

FOI 1628

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

- 1. Has the Trust ever used any form of pet therapy or animal assisted therapy in your hospitals?**
Yes we have at both sites (Bedford & Luton)
- 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?**
On a voluntary basis
- 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?)**
Nil
- 4. Who is responsible within the Trust for organising Pet Therapy Services?**
Head of Therapies and Matrons of the wards.
- 5. What policies and procedures have been put in place as safeguards for using animals in hospitals?**
We have an agreement in place with Pets as Therapy to enable their approved dogs/handlers to come in. Full risk Assessment in place.
- 6. What qualifications / certifications does the Trust expect therapy animals to hold to guarantee patient safety?**
Any therapy dogs coming in must be registered through Pets as Therapy or Therapy Pets Nationwide and this means they have completed all the necessary training.

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of

receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to: dataprotectionofficer@ldh.nhs.uk. This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

FOI Officer

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust