

17/02/2022

Dear Requester,

**FOI 1063**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust.  
Please note, this is a cross-site response for **Luton site (in green)** and **Bedford site (in blue)**.  
You asked:

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. Occasional low tech devices are funded by charities or by individuals**  
**We do not have a budget for this.**
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?  
**N/A**
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?  
**They would all have been individually funded by the patient or by MNDA**  
**It is more ad hoc. We do not have records but also we do not have the budget so would not be provided by us**
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?  
**Those who require high tech AAC are managed by referral to specialist communication aid service and the funding is met by this pathway.**  
**We would assess the patient as part of the general caseload and then seek help from charities such as MNDA or liaise with CASEE (Communication Aid Service East of England)**

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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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust