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Request for Information Reference: 10.21.41

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Email only

9 November 2021

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 22 October 2021 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to a budget for aid devices for patients with speech difficulties and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Do you have a recurring budget for providing low and mid tech communication aid devices for people 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?**

The Trust does not have a budget as described above. Funding is provided on an as and when basis as the year to year demand is variable and therefore attempting to set a specific budget would be counterproductive. No appropriate requests have been refused.

- 2. If yes, how many people 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 by your Trust in this and the last two financial years, and what devices were provided?**
- 3. If yes, how many people 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 by your Trust in this and the last two financial years, 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 a Trust organisation/trust make available assessment and provision of these devices for people living with speech difficulties?**

Referrals are made to Regional Communication Aids Service (RCAS) as appropriate. Should RCAS assess the patient and not fund the device, the Community Specialist Speech and Language Therapist would assess the patient and approach the CCG for funding or seek funding through the service and Trust.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs).

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**