

Dear Requestor

RE: Freedom of Information Request

With reference to your request for information I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we partially hold the information that you have requested. A response to each part of your request is below.

In the request you asked:

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?

For Children and Young People:

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG contribute to the Communication Aids contract led by Nottinghamshire County Council. The Communication Aids Panel consists of representatives from:

- Nottingham City Local Authority
- Nottinghamshire County Local Authority
- NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- NHS Bassetlaw CCG

The service provides specialist equipment and support for children and young people in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County to enable them to communicate and access the national curriculum.

Yes, there is a recurring NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG budget available for 2021/22. This is currently being worked through.

2020/21 - £32,681. The contributions for 2020/21 have been adjusted to account for an overall underspend in 2019/20 of £9,567.

2019/20 - £38,515

For Adults:

The CCG commissions adult speech and language therapy services from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and Nottingham CityCare, our two core out of hospital service providers. The CCG has a block contract funding arrangement with both providers and there is no specific budget for providing low and mid tech communication aid devices.

2. If yes, how many people 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 by your CCG in this and the last two financial years, and what devices were provided?

For Children and Young People:

We do not obtain any data relating to the specific patient diagnoses although we do have the overall activity data:

2019/20 – 73 equipment loans provided to 27 children and young people

2020/21 – 46 equipment loans provided to 16 children and young people

2021/22 – annual reporting not yet collated.

There is a wide ranging equipment list available which includes various stands, brackets, keyboards, mounts, switches, iPads, Grid Pads, cases, eye gaze cameras, power supply units, earphones, Accent 1000, i15, i15+, I-110, Look to Learn, i12+, Buddy button, myGaze2 USB eye gaze camera, ChooseIT! Maker 3

For Adults - Not applicable.

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 CCG in this and the last two financial years, and what devices were provided?

Please see above answer to question 2.

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 CCG commissioned organisation/trust make available assessment and provision of these devices for people living with speech difficulties?

For Children and Young People - Not applicable.

For Adults: Communications aids are currently funded for eligible adults only where relevant as part of their Continuing Healthcare package.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group have an internal review procedure through which you can raise any concerns you might have. Further details of this procedure can be obtained by contacting Lucy Branson, Associate Director of Governance via lucy.branson@nhs.net or by writing to NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCG, Sir John Robinson House, Sir John Robinson Way, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 6DA.

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether the organisation has complied with its obligations under the Act, and can require the organisation to remedy any problems. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by NHS Nottingham and

Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group. 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/for-the-public/>

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 123 1113 or report a concern: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer on behalf of *NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group*.

notts.foi@nhs.net

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