

Information Governance

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28 June 2023

Our reference: FOI DA4693

I am responding to your request for information received 17 April 2023. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your request. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,



Nimita Parmar
Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

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Request: I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under The Freedom of Information Act 2002. Please may you provide me with the following:

Question 1: Does the trust use dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance) within your hospitals or for patients at home?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)

Answer: One dog is PAT registered with the charity. One is engaged as part of the NHS. Other dogs are provided by an external organisation.

Question 3: Please could you specify how many dogs have been engaged for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by purpose. (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance)

Answer: One dog for therapeutic engagement.

Two dogs for mental health support.

For one service, the number of dogs varies between two and eight as they visit the unit twice a month.

Question 4: Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.

Answer: The breeds of dog are Greyhound, Cocker Spaniel and mixed breeds.

Question 5: How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) worked with these dogs for each of the years in the same period?

Answer: One member of staff supports pet therapy along with their substantive role.

Other dogs come with two staff members, externally sourced.

Question 6: What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?

Answer: No budget was allocated to this provision.



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