**Reference Number:** FOI2021/417

**From:** Commercial

**Date:** 15 December 2021

**Subject:** budget for providing low and mid tech communication aid devices for adults (18 or over) with speech difficulties

Q1 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)?

A1 No specific budget is in place for such devices. Patients would be referred for in-patient rehabilitation within their local area and any need for mid tech devices would be addressed there. Our Speech and Language Therapy team would provide low tech devices during their in-patient stay here which would be purchased as part of a larger departmental budget.

Q2 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?

A2 Not applicable as per A1

Q3 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?

A3 Not applicable as per A1

Q4 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?

A4 Not applicable as per A1