

**Reference Number:** FOI202425/413  
**From:** Commercial  
**Date:** 10 December 2024  
**Subject:** Service provision of non- specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC),

Q1 A copy of your pathway for assessment and provision of non- specialist Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), this includes tablet-based devices, text to speech devices and apps but not equipment provided by the specialist hubs (e.g. eye gaze)

A1 Information not held; we do not have a pathway.

Q2 The number of patients (adult and children) assessed for a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)

A2 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data.

Q3 The number of patients (adult and children) provided with a non-specialist communication aid in 2023 and 2024 (YTD)

A3 Information not held, as per A2.

Q4 Your budget for 2023 and 2023 for the provision of non-specialist communication aids e.g. boogie boards, lightwighters, tablets and apps that require direct access NOT eye gaze

A4 Information not held; no budget associated with this.

Q5 If provision of non-specialist communication aids is on a loan basis, then how long is this for e.g. 3 months, or as long as required

A5 Not applicable, no loan of these.

Q6 If you do not have a budget for providing non-specialist 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?

A6 We would refer to the ACE centre for specialist assessment

Q7 The number of patients supported with a non-specialist communication aid via an individual funding requests

A7 Zero

