

Information Governance Department
First Floor, South Wing
St Thomas' Hospital
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7EH

Telephone: 020 7188 7525

Email: foi@gstt.nhs.uk

13th June 2016

By email: request-333218-8f4b6184@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Dr Reddington,

Re: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: 55230

Please find below the response to your Freedom of Information request to Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

You may re-use this information (except for logos) under the terms of the Open Government Licence.¹ If you would prefer to receive the information in an alternative electronic format, please let us know.

Would you please send me details of augmentative and alternative communication devices supplied/purchased by your trust between 1st April 2011 and 31st March 2016. I would like the information broken down by both product name (So for example Dynavox Xpress, iPod touch with TapToTalk, BigMack) and by year. I would like information for both children and adults, but I don't require a breakdown by age.

I am attempting to find out how many people who have poor or no speech have a speech aid, in particular electronic speech aids, and I would like to know how many have been supplied by the trust during the last five years.

The Trust Adult Speech and Language Therapy Service uses aids within the hospital for an inpatient admission with the exception of the artificial larynx devices (Servox) which patients take home with them on discharge. For some devices such as the Voice Amplifiers, we operate a loan system for trial at home/in the workplace. The following devices have in stock more than five years ago:

- 3 x Voice Amplifiers
- 3 x Lightwriters
- 2 x Big Keys Lightwriters
- 6 x Big Mack
- 1 x I-pad
- Boardmaker software
- Zam Communicator

Please note, the Intensive Care Unit have dedicated communication aids for use during in patient admissions. Patients are referred to the GSTT Assistive Communication Service (based in the community at Bowley Close Rehabilitation Centre) for further assessment and provision of communication aids as required. Many patients choose to utilise personal devices such as phones/i-pads/laptops and with guidance and assistance from their Speech and Language Therapist access one of many Apps for augmentative/alternative communication.

In the last five years, the Trust has purchased the following two Voice Amplifier systems, one Dynawrite, thirty Servox Artificial Larynx and one I-pad.

Please let us know if you require more details or further clarification. You can find out more about the Trust and our publication scheme at our website ^[2].

If you are dissatisfied with our response, please use our FOI review process by contacting foi@gstt.nhs.uk or writing to:

Access to Information Manager (FOI Review)
Information Governance
1F South Wing
St Thomas' Hospital
Westminster Bridge Road
London SE1 7EH

Please be aware that reviews will not be conducted via public forum, and we will require your name and contact address in order to respond

If you remain dissatisfied after a review, you have the right under s50 of the Act to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. Further details about this and the Act can be found on their website ^[3].

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Steddon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Simon Steddon.
Acting Chief Operating Officer

[1] Either version 3 or, at your discretion, any later version – <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/>

[2] <http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/about-us/publications/foi/freedom-of-information.aspx>

[3] <http://www.ico.org.uk>