

## FOI\_0596\_21/22 – FOI request concerning - Low and Mid Tech Communication Aid Devices for Adults with Speech Difficulties

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1. 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)?

*NO specific / designated budget*

*Non recurring monies used as and when to update the communication aid loan bank. Communication aids bought are for loan from the communication aid loan bank vs bought for specific individuals.*

2. 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?

*2021 15 adults were loaned low- mid tech communication aid devices*

*2020 10 adults*

*2019 24 adults*

*Devices provided: iPads with communication apps: Predictable, Grid for iPad, Clarocom; Lightwriters; Listen to me; Allora.*

*Devices cleaned and reissued when returned to the loan bank.*

3. 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?

*Diagnosis data not held on communication aid database until 2021.*

*2021 – 3 MND patients were loaned SLT dept devices. All others referred to MNDA who provided either communication apps for pts to put on their own devices, or loaned MNDA ipads + communication app. Record of numbers referred to MNDA not kept at this time.*

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 your organisation make available assessment



## **and provision of these devices for adults (18 or over) living with speech difficulties?**

*Solent SLT has a communication aid loan bank, which is added to and updated as money becomes available.*

*Previous budget ( until 2015) enable a library of devices to be developed.*

*These devices are available for assessment and loan.*

*0.4 Band 7 Highly Specialist SLT for Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) in post Key responsibilities are to oversee SLT AAC Axs, provide specialist advice and support to patients, their families and other SLTs as required.*

*Communication aids are kept by the individual with the communication difficulty until they are no longer required / appropriate.*

*Once returned, devices are cleaned, wiped of any personal information and reloaned. Repairs / new charges etc are funded via general equipment budget.*

*If all devices from the SLT dept are on loan, SLT accesses devices and /or communication apps for patients via charitable sources eg MNDA, PDA, PSPA. (AAC devices have also been donated to SLT by family when pt no longer requires it )*

*1 example of CCG funding a device via Individual funding request (IFR).*

*More cost effective, in the long term, if the SLT dept is funded to purchase devices that can be loaned, returned and reissued multiple times.*

*If the individual has complex communication needs, that include physical difficulties accessing communication aids, SLT make referrals to regional communication aid assessment centre in Oxford (ACE) who can then advise, loan devices, and provide support, as appropriate. Approx. 5-6 referrals per year.*

*Access to support from Smartbox for Grid for iPads that have already been purchased. SLT AAC pathway flowchart – see attached*

