

Our Ref: LW/Imw/FOI.119.23  
Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Laurie Wrench  
Deputy Director of Governance  
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust  
Lawton House  
Bellringer Road  
Trentham  
ST4 8HH

Dear

Tel 01782 275030

### Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing in response to your e-mail of the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Your request has been processed using the Trust's procedures for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

#### ***Requested information:***

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?
2. If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)
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)
4. Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.
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?
6. What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?

**Please see spreadsheet attached as Appendix 1 as requested.**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review of the management of your request. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Peter Axon, Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare Trust, Trust Headquarters, Lawton House, Bellringer Road, Trentham, ST4 8HH. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely



**Laurie Wrench**  
**Deputy Director of Governance**

## FOI.119.23- Appendix 1

Question	Answer
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?	Yes
2. If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)	Own organisation
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)	1 PAT dog , with owner to visit patients on wards, 2 in room with o
4. Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.	Springer Spaniel , Bichon Frise
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?	1 staff member, 1 volunteer
6. What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?	N/A