

FOI REF: 22/523

26th September 2022

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

- 1) **Has the Trust ever used any form of pet therapy or animal assisted therapy in your hospitals?**

Yes.
- 2) **If your Trust has used such services how have they been provided to the Trust i.e. Voluntary or funded by the Trust and has this remained the same or changed between voluntary and funded?**

Voluntary, unchanged.
- 3) **What do you estimate the cost to be to the Trust of using animal assisted therapy by year for the last 5 years (if applicable?)**

Not applicable.
- 4) **Who is responsible within the Trust for organising Pet Therapy Services?**

Voluntary Services.
- 5) **What policies and procedures have been put in place as safeguards for using animals in hospitals?**

[Policy for the Management of Animals within Healthcare Settings.](#)

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6) What qualifications / certifications does the Trust expect therapy animals to hold to guarantee patient safety?

Volunteers must sign an agreement form that supplies their Pets as Therapy reference number, we then send that to the charity head office so that they are aware the volunteer is visiting our site and confirm they are registered and up to date on their system. They have to pass a number of requirements to be registered with Pets as Therapy so we just check they have that up to date registration.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
Corporate Governance Manager
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