

FOI REF: 25/390

3rd June 2025

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:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request regarding the provision of vestibular assessment and rehabilitation by your Trust's Falls Prevention Service (or equivalent).

World Guidelines for Falls Prevention and Management for Older Adults: A Global Initiative published in September 2022 (see below link) recommend routinely asking about dizziness and undertaking follow up assessment to identify causes, including vestibular. They reference the high incidence of BPPV and vestibular dysfunction in those presenting with falls and suggest managing vestibular issues should be considered as part of a multifactorial approach.

[World Guidelines for Falls Prevention and Management for Older Adults: A Global Initiative | British Geriatrics Society \(bgs.org.uk\)](https://www.bgs.org.uk/world-guidelines-for-falls-prevention-and-management-for-older-adults-a-global-initiative)

The request therefore has 3 specific questions:

- 1. Does your falls prevention team (or equivalent) have staff trained to assess and treat vestibular dysfunction?**

Yes, however unable to utilise this clinical resource due to capacity and demand challenges requiring a focus on core business rather than BPPV intervention.

- 2. If so, from which profession(s)?**

Physiotherapy.

- 3. Do you have any plans to develop this part of your falls prevention service?**

Not at present.

Cont.../

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

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net