

**Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
I am pleased to confirm the following via the attachment.

**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, we use dogs registered with Pets As Therapy

**If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)**

The dogs have to have an up-to-date registration with PAT charity, and we process the owner/handler as an MKUH volunteer.

**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)**

2019 - 2021	total of 2 dogs and volunteer handlers
2022 – current day	total of 4 dogs and volunteer handlers

**Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.**

1 x Staffordshire Bull Terrier/multiple cross  
1 x Fox Red Labrador  
1 x Cockerpoo  
1 x Miniature Schnauzer

**How many full-time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc.) worked with these dogs for each of the years in the same period?**

The dogs are always on leads with their owners/handlers. The ward staff oversee the visits, not necessarily 'work' with the dogs, this is down to the owner-handler.

**What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?**

£0 budget specifically for PAT dog volunteers - they are recruited and undergo Trust training and induction as any other volunteer. They will receive out of pocket expenses for mileage, there is no payment made to our volunteers.

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If you are unhappy with the information received in response to this request, please address your complaint to the Patient Affairs Office at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Standing Way, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes MK6 5LD. If, after exhausting our internal process, you are still unhappy with the information received, you may write to the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator  
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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