

Freedom of Information request 162-19

Request & Response

I am writing from Blue Cross, a pet charity dedicated to improving animal welfare in the UK. We are currently in the process of contacting all relevant NHS mental health trusts in Great Britain, requesting **details relating to the use of animal assisted therapy (AAT)**.

Under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I would like to make the following request for information.

1. Do you use any form of Animal-assisted Therapy within your Mental Health Trust?

Yes	No
X	

2. Is the AAT used primarily for patients with: (please tick the relevant box)

· Depression	X
· Anxiety	X
· Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?	X
· Dementia	X
· Other	<i>Bereavement and General Wellbeing and support of patients Patients and staff can also request visits.</i>

3. How many instances has AAT been used for each of the above in the last 5 years?

2018	52 (once a week) also on request
2017	52 (once a week) also on request
2016	52 (once a week) also on request
2015	52 (once a week) also on request
2014	52 (once a week) also on request

4. Do you have a standard operating procedure or protocol in place for AAT? If so, please provide a copy of this.



NHSB Pet Policy.pdf

5. How much money is spent each year on AAT within your Mental Health Trust?

No cost implication – volunteers bring in their Canine Scotland therapets

- 6. *Has the Trust published any evaluation reports on the effectiveness of AAT? If so, please could you provide a copy.***

Therapet activity is constantly monitored and regular meetings held with the volunteers and patients views always considered. We do not complete evaluation reports.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled or the decision given, you may ask NHS Borders to review its actions and the decision. If you would like to request a review please apply in writing to, Freedom of Information Review, NHS Borders, Room 2EC3, Education Centre, Borders General Hospital, Melrose, TD6 9BS or foi.enquiries@borders.scot.nhs.uk.

The request for a review should include your name and address for correspondence, the request for information to which the request relates and the issue which you wish to be reviewed. Please state the reference number **162-19** on this request. Your request should be made within 40 working days from receipt of this letter.

If following this review, you remain dissatisfied with the outcome, you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner and request an investigation of your complaint. Your request to the Scottish Information Commissioner should be in writing (or other permanent form), stating your name and an address for correspondence. You should provide the details of the request and your reasons for dissatisfaction with both the original response by NHS Borders and your reasons for dissatisfaction with the outcome of the internal review. Your application for an investigation by the Scottish Information Commissioner must be made within six months of your receipt of the response with which you are dissatisfied. The address for the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner is, Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife.