

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_172_23

You asked:

- 1. Does the Health Board use dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance) within your hospitals or for patients at home?**

Yes, Adult/Older Persons Mental Health Services – inpatients and day services.

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

External 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)**

We do not record this information.

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

Spaniels / Golden Retriever.

- 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?**

We do not have any staff who are trainers, handlers or officers.

- 6. What was the Health Board's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?**

We do not have a budget for the use of therapeutic dogs within our hospital services.