

Trust Headquarters
Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ

Ref: FOI-022025-0001420

Date: 18.3.25

Address / Email:

Dear

Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Request

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://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?
2. If so, from which profession(s)?
3. Do you have any plans to develop this part of your falls prevention service?

Response

The Dudley Community Falls Service does have a vestibular element to the team and we have physiotherapists who are trained in vestibular assessment/treatment.

There are plans to upskill other staff within the service to screen for BPPV from other professionals carrying out falls assessments.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager
Trust Headquarters

Russell's Hall Hospital
Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 2HQ
Email: dgft.dpo@nhs.net

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113
www.ico.org.uk

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust