

FOI 0415/2025 Response

write to request the following information:

- 1. Does your Trust currently provide or commission acupuncture treatments or acupuncture services? If so, please provide a copy of your policy, including on what evidence acupuncture is provided.**

Yes, we do offer acupuncture treatment as part of our physiotherapy interventions.

Please note that at present, there is only a single member of the physiotherapy team actively using acupuncture as a treatment modality.

Currently, there is no established policy regarding the use of acupuncture within BSMHFT. We are in the process of developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for acupuncture.

- 2. For each of the last five fiscal years (2020/2021, 2021/2022, 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25), please provide:**
 - a. The amount spent on the provision or commissioning of acupuncture services or treatments**
 - b. The number of patients seen by these services**

Year	Amount Spent	Number of patients
2020/21		
2021/22		
2022/23		
2023/24		
2024/25		

We do not maintain a separate record of patients who are offered acupuncture treatment.

This is primarily because within the scope of physiotherapy interventions, acupuncture is not considered the primary treatment option.

Rather, it serves as an adjunct to other therapeutic approaches, including manual therapy, exercise therapy, and related modalities. We are therefore unable to provide the exact number of patients who received acupuncture during the fiscal years 2020–21 to 2024–25.

However we can confirm the following associated costs relating to training staff who conduct acupuncture and equipment i.e. needles:

Integrated Care and community costs

Year	Amount Spent
2020/21	2,801
2021/22	2,879
2022/23	4,073
2023/24	4,628
2024/25	4,628

Dementia & Frailty / Older Adult Services

Year	Amount Spent
2020/21	£549 (training)
2021/22	£549 (training)
2022/23	0
2023/24	0
2024/25	£190 (training)

3. Do you currently have a contract in place with any provider for the provision of acupuncture services? If so, please provide a copy of the contract.

No

4. Which external organisations, charities or companies (eg the Sam Buxton Sunflower Healing Trust) have you contracted or engaged with over the provision of acupuncture services in the five fiscal years? Please include

N/A – please refer to the response provided for question 4.

5. copies of any promotional materials, advertising materials or other documentation provided by the external organisation as part of this engagement

N/A – please refer to the response provided for question 4.