Freedom of Information request - NHS Trusts

19.06.2025

The University of Liverpool have commissioned a landscape mapping report to help understand the range of XR and healthcare research and products currently being researched, developed and deployed across the UK. This research is being led by the XR Health Alliance, in collaboration with NIHR HRC MindTech at the University of Nottingham. This research will culminate in an interactive online report, designed to help support greater understanding of the UK landscape and act as a tool for the wider sector to benefit from. These findings will go on to support new programmes and collaborations. We wish to request your time to share what work you're undertaking. Thank you for your support and cooperation. If you have any questions, please reach out to info@xrha.org.

Background

Extended Reality (XR) is a broad term encompassing various technologies that blend virtual and real environments. It includes Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and Mixed Reality (MR) which can be used for many purposes and conditions related to physical and mental health within healthcare. We recognise that increasingly the definition of XR is becoming more fluid - if you are utilising other interactive media within a therapeutic context that you believe sits on the edges of this definition, we invite you to also share those details.

We are aiming to collect information on your organisation's involvement with this technology for healthcare purposes only (physical or mental health uses or conditions) and collect information on specific products being used, researched, made or purchased by your organisation for healthcare purposes. See question 9 for a list of categories of use in this area.

Please use the Microsoft Form to respond to the Freedom of Information request submitted to your organisation. You will be able to generate a receipt of your responses for your own reporting. You will be able to answer for all products.

Link to MS Form: https://forms.office.com/e/81XMSCwnpA

Freedom of Information questions:

1. Organisation's name:

Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust

2. Under the Freedom of Information Act, will you be reporting the use, research, purchase, development, or otherwise of an XR technology within your organisation?

- Yes **√**
- No, there are no XR products to report in my organisation

3. Does your organisation have an established XR Technology Lab or Centre of Excellence for XR Technology?

- Yes
- No **√**
- Other

4. Please select the type of organisation that you represent:

- Academic Institution/ University
- NHS Acute Trust (Hospital Trust)
- NHS Mental Health Trust
- NHS Ambulance Services Trust
- NHS Community Health Trust
- NHS Foundation Trust **√**
- NHS Specialist/Integrated Trust
- Other

5. Please select the nature of your organisation's involvement with XR health products (please select all that are applicable)

- We are using free XR products
- We are using XR products that we have purchased
- We are researching XR products **√**
- We are developing XR products
- Other

6. Please state the name of the product(s)

Not applicable

7. Please provide a brief description of the product(s)

Not applicable

8. Please highlight any unique features of the product(s)

Not applicable

9. Please provide a link to the product website(s) if available

Not applicable

10. Please select the most relevant categories for the product(s) being developed or deployed:

- Mental Wellbeing and Therapy
- Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation
- Pain Management
- Clinical & Surgical
- Patient Education and Training
- Workforce Education and Training **√**
- Healthy Lifestyle and Fitness
- Other

11. Please select how these product(s) are being or will be adopted:

- Free to patients/staff
- Paid for by patients/staff
- Free to NHS
- Paid for by NHS **√**
- Unknown
- Other

12. Please select the level of maturity of the product(s)

- Proof of concept **√**
- Minimum Viable Product

- Early Adoption
- Growing Integration
- Established Practice
- Unknown
- Other

13. Approximately what date/year was the XR product(s) first deployed within your organisation?

Not applicable

14. Where and/or in how many locations is the product(s) currently offered?

Not applicable

15. How is the product(s) currently distributed?

- Home use by patients
- Home use by staff
- NHS site by patients
- NHS site by staff
- Unknown
- Other ✔

16. Please select the hardware that is used in your organisation (select all that apply):

- Meta Quest 2
- Meta Quest 3
- Meta Quest Pro
- Pico 4
- Pico Neo 3 Pro / Eye
- HTC Vive XR Elite
- Lenovo ThinkReality XVR
- Valve Index
- Apple Vision Pro
- HTC VivePro 2
- Pimax Crystal
- Sony Playstation VR2
- Vive Focus 3
- Unknown ✔
- Other

17. If your organisation is involved in the development of XR products, please select the development software that is used (please select all that apply):

- Unity
- Unreal Engine
- Godot
- Open XR
- XR Interaction Toolkit
- SteamVR Plugin
- Meta XR SDK
- Vive Wave SDK
- Varjo SDK
- WebXR
- Mixed Reality Toolkit

- Ultraleap Hand Tracking
- Unknown **√**
- Other

18. Please provide details of external organisations such as development partners that are involved.

Not applicable

19. Please provide any further details.

The 'We Want You' Careers Engagement and Outreach team is developing a new project to invest in a small number of VR headsets. These will enhance our presence at careers fairs and school outreach events throughout the academic year and beyond. These headsets will play a pivotal role in inspiring young people to explore various careers in health and care, particularly in areas where traditional work experience opportunities are limited for those under 25, such as mental health services, pharmacies, laboratories, etc.

By utilising NHSE 360 Interactive Training Videos, we aim to provide a fully immersive experience that brings these career paths to life. We hope the VR headsets will be instrumental in creating a dynamic and interactive approach to career exploration, engaging young people in a way that traditional methods cannot. This innovative tool will help us spark interest and inspire the next generation to consider fulfilling careers within health and care across Gloucestershire.