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Request for Information Reference: 11.22.54

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Email only

19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to Facilities for Junior Doctors and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**I am writing regarding funding provided by the government in 2019-20, distributed to your Trust via Health Education England (HEE), to improve rest facilities for junior doctors in line with the BMA Fatigue and Facilities Charter.**

**I understand from HEE that your Trust was provided with of this funding.**

**1. Please detail how this money was spent on improving rest facilities for junior doctors.**

Please see the attached spreadsheet for the breakdown of how the money was spent.

The money has been protected for the purpose of providing mess and rest facilities for junior doctors with no issues, fully supported by the Board.

The Guardian of Safe Working seeks approval and agreement from the junior doctors for the spending of this money and any fines at the Junior Doctors Forums (JDF) held monthly in the Trust and via Teams. The BMA are invited and attend these meetings.

The Trust has been able to establish a Junior Doctor Mess on each main hospital site with the money, which have been handed over to the JD Mess Committees and supported by Medical Education.

- 2. Please provide me with any documentation that the Trust holds (e.g. board papers, business plans, emails) that documents the allocation of this funding and the justification for its use.**

The Trust does not have any documents regarding the justification of the use of the money as there was no need – The funds were accepted and protected by the Trust, as to be used for rest and facilities for Junior Doctors' only.

- 3. Please provide me with any documentation that the trust holds (e.g. board papers, business plans, emails) that documents how the Director of Medical Education and Junior Doctors' Forum in your Trust determined, signed off and monitored the allocation of this funding.**

Please find enclosed the minutes from the Junior Doctors Forum. All information not relating to discussions surrounding the Junior Doctors' mess has been redacted.

Attachment 2 - Feb 2021; agreement sought from JDF to go ahead with the Durham Mess.

Attachment 3 – May 2021; agreement sought from JDF to go ahead with the Bishop Mess.

Attachment 4 – Dec 2021; agreement sought to do work to upgrade the 4<sup>th</sup> floor DMH Mess area till larger mess established.

Attachment 5 – May 2022; agreement sought to go ahead with the Darlington Mess and request for any further spending requirements the JD had.

Attachment 6 – Nov 2022; discussions around spend of remaining money.

- 4. If your answers to questions 1-3 above do not account for the full amount of the funding in question, with which your Trust was provided, please detail what happened to the remainder.**

As shown in the attached spreadsheet (Attachment 1), there is approximately £11,000 remaining following the recent completion of the Mess in Darlington Memorial Hospital. A quote has been received to fit the mess out with soft seating, dining facilities and space to use their own devices which is detailed on the attached spreadsheet. However, as this has been received within the last week, the designs and breakdown have not been presented to the JDF for discussion or approval yet. There has been discussion at JDFs about providing more crockery and cutlery for the rest areas as well as lockers for doctors to use as storage, however making sure that the rest areas were established first was the priority.

Spending the remaining money will continue to be discussed at the JDFs and will be spent on items to support the purpose it was provided for and led by the junior doctors.

**If you believe that this request will exceed the cost limits of the Act, then I would be willing to receive the answer to the questions prioritised by order, ie to only questions 1, 2 and 3; or sequentially to only questions 1 and 2; or sequentially to only question 1.**

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs).

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**