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Request for Information Reference: 11.22.58

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Email only

19th December 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 23rd 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 charges to overseas visitors and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. The total outstanding medical bills currently owed to the Trust by overseas visitors. Please provide subtotals for each hospital within the Trust.

Bishop Auckland Hospital	- £10,704.40
Chester Le Street Community Hospital	- £717.00
Darlington Memorial Hospital	- £143,521.22
Shotley Bridge Hospital	- £833.50
Sunderland Royal Hospital (Dermatology)	- £510.00
University Hospital North Durham	- £95,824.29

2. The top three highest outstanding medical bills owed to the Trust by individual overseas visitors and the nationality of those visitors. (i.e. £495,000 owed by an individual from France)

£21,859.43 - USA
£18,323.18 - British citizen residing in Canada
£10,932.00 - India

3. Of the total amount owed to the Trust, please provide a breakdown of the nationalities of overseas visitors who currently have outstanding medical bills (i.e. visitors from USA: £200,000 / visitors from Japan: £130,000)

Nationality	Amount
Argenan	£4,359.00
Bangladesh	£9,190.50
Bolivia	£717.00
Botswana	£883.50
Brazil	£12,065.88
China	£18,133.53
Congo	£1,019.50
Dubai	£1,261.00
Egypt	£10,512.38
Gambia	£1,298.25
Ghana	£6,120.59
Guatemalan	£3,970.00
India	£27,882.93
Indonesia	£238.50
Iran	£10,434.52
Iraq	£7,916.98
Italy	£651.22
Kuwait	£722.25
Latvia	£2,426.11
Lithuania	£167.00
Madagascar	£366.50
New Zealand	£226.50
Nigeria	£8,446.77
Not listed nationality	£9,248.76
Pakistan	£25,142.30
Phillipines	£5,550.00
Poland	£2,524.05
Romania	£6,927.31
Saint Vincent	£152.47
Saudi Arabia	£1,072.50
Spain	£2,770.18
Sri Lanka	£1,260.50
Switzerland	£1,009.36
Turkey	£2,795.64
UK	£21,246.68
USA	£38,424.85
Vietnam	£909.00
Zimbabwe	£739.50

4. Please provide a breakdown of medical procedures that the outstanding medical bills relate to, for example £300,000 owed for Kidney disease treatments, for the Trust as a whole.

Speciality	Amount
A&E Short stay	£2,506.09
Audiology	£54.03
Cardiology	£2,510.34
Dermatology	£510.00
Endoscopy	£717.00
ENT	£2,644.48
Gastroenterology	£897.00
General Medicine	£58,906.68
General Surgery	£14,151.56
Gynaecology	£6,592.54
Gynaecology Obstetrics	£10,932.00
Obstetrics	£85,211.79
Ophthalmology	£16,075.30
Oral Surgery	£1,021.68
Paediatrics	£4,317.75
Plastic Surgery	£1,288.48
Stroke Medicine	£10,922.47
Thoracic	£1,019.50
Trauma and Orthopaedics	£30,215.78
Urology	£1,666.24

The Trust does not centrally record outstanding medical bills broken down by medical procedure and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine the sets of patient's notes for the outstanding bills in each speciality to determine what procedures each patient had. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator