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Request for Information Reference: 02.23.17

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 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 Improve hospital processes and efficiency and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**1. How much money was spent on external consultancy services to help improve hospital processes and efficiency for the tax years 2012 to 2022?**

The Trust's Improvement and Efficiency Team has not commissioned any such consultancy projects since it was established in June 2017. Our financial records do not enable the ready identification of consultancy projects meeting the specification you have set out for prior periods.

In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine the Trust's financial records for external consultancy fees to determine if these related to improving hospital processes and efficiency. 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.

2. **Has your organisation directly employed during the period of 2012 to 2022 data analysts and or statisticians (not through consultancy services nor through academic access)?**

**Statisticians:** Yes

**Data analysts:** Yes

3. **If yes, to question 2, did they facilitate non-research hospital governance and improvement activity and/or data analytics for the NHS?**

No

4. **Does your hospital currently have an improvement/development team?**

Yes, and it does not include data analysts or statisticians

5. **Which group of employees carries out the majority of governance and improvement projects?**

- a) doctors
- b) nurses
- c) doctors and nurses
- d) a specific team.

Everyone in the Trust is encouraged to deliver improvement projects, and our Improvement Matters Programme (IMP), which is part of our Quality Improvement Strategy, allows everyone to attend the training and be supported to deliver their projects.

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**