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Request for Information Reference: 02.23.52

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
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Email only

15th March 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 20th 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 Longest Cancer Waits and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. What was the longest a patient at your Trust waited (in weeks/days) for -**
 - a) first consultant appointment, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;**
 - b) being told they have cancer, or cancer being definitively excluded, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;**
 - c) a first treatment for cancer, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;**
 - d) a diagnostic test or procedure, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway**

In each of the following calendar years – 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022?

For ease of response, I have provided the following table:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Longest wait for a first consultant appointment, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway	60 days	75 days	317 days	118 days	138 days
Longest wait for being told they have cancer, or cancer being definitively excluded, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway	152 days	193 days	259 days	229 days	323 days
Longest wait for a first treatment for cancer, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway	188 days	212 days	242 days	241 days	240 days
Longest wait for a diagnostic test or procedure, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway				32 days	35 days

Please note that the Trust are unable to provide a response to question 1d for the years 2018-2020 as it was not centrally recorded on the system during this time period. The Trust estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested as it would require a member of staff to manually examine the patient records to determine the longest wait following an urgent referral on the 2 week wait pathway. 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. At the end of January 2023, what was the longest a patient at your Trust had been waiting (in weeks/days) for -

a) a first consultant appointment, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

32 days

b) being told they have cancer, or cancer being definitively excluded, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

64 days

c) a first treatment for cancer, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway;

229 days

d) a diagnostic test or procedure, following a GP urgent referral on the two week wait pathway?

14 days

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