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Request for Information Reference: 02.23.57

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Email only

17th March 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 21st 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 Treatment waiting times and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

I am writing to submit an FOI concerning waiting times for consultant-led treatment, for both inpatient and outpatients.

Firstly I would like to give some context to aid in the interpretation of my request. I am familiar with the NHS England Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times statistics that are published monthly, and am looking for more specific figures about patients who leave this waiting list. I know leaving the waiting list could be because of a range of scenarios - the patient has had the scan/procedure/appointment they were waiting for, they have refused treatment, they have failed to show up and therefore been removed from the waiting list etc.

My request:

I would the following data broken down by month for between December 2018 to January 2023:

1. How many patients left the waiting list for whatever reason. Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list.
2. Of these, how many left the waiting list because they were admitted as an emergency and treated for the condition their referral related to during their emergency stay, therefore ending the treatment waiting pathway? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they left more than one waiting list. Please note that the Welsh government has outlined how this may occur on page 8 of this guidance here:
<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsenedd.wales%2Fmedia%2Fycspv5fr%2Fhospital-waiting-times.pdf&data=05%7C01%7Ccdda-tr.cddftfoi%40nhs.net%7C40a3a182de454366373808db13ffd3d3%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C1%7C638125761709347218%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLjBjBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JsBZ8ceBev3HvpuCMhOvvsgtfSAVHHnp2YQd92dg9vA%3D&reserved=0>
3. And of these (patients in question 1), how many left the waiting list because they died? Please ensure people are counted more than once if they were on more than one waiting list when they died.
A patient could be subject to multiple different referrals, so I would like data based on the referrals rather than individual people ie If a person dies while on three waiting lists for instance, I would like them to be counted as three referral waiting periods/RTT pathways ending due to death.

Please see the attached spreadsheet. Please note that due to a change in system from October 2022 the Trust are unable to provide the reason for removal from waiting list, and therefore cannot provide a response to question 2 and 3 for this time period.

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