

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 02.22.60

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

22nd March 2023

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 22nd 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 Surgery Waiting Times and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please provide the longest period of time that a patient spent on an elective waiting list in each of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in each of the following categories:

The surgical P priority codes were not mandated until the COVID Pandemic (late 2020) and P5/P6 had not been created until this point either. Prior to this NHS Providers would use, ROUTINE, URGENT AND CANCER as priority descriptors. These are not a complete like for like match with the P Codes (and their wait time bandings) and as such prior to the mandation of these the P code splits included are based on assumed mapping criteria. Because of this the P2s have been done using the Cancer Treatment records (which we would expect to be the vast majority of P2s).

a) Priority 1 (operation needed within 72 hours)

The Trust does not record Priority 1s on the waiting list therefore they are not identifiable.

b) Priority 2 (surgery which can be deferred for up to four weeks)

2018 – 10 weeks
2019 – 10 weeks
2020 – 31 weeks
2021 – 16 weeks
2022 – 27 weeks

c) Priority 3 (surgery which can be delayed for up to three months)

2018 – 45 weeks
2019 – 44 weeks
2020 – 96 weeks
2021 – 102 weeks
2022 – 105 weeks

d) Priority 4 (surgery which can be delayed for more than three months)

2018 – 54 Weeks
2019 – 60 Weeks
2020 – 96 Weeks
2021 – 123 Weeks
2022 – 120 Weeks

e) Priority 5 (patients who have requested to remain on the waiting list but to defer treatment because of their concerns about Covid-19)

During 2018-2020 these codes did not exist as they were introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2018 – N/A
2019 – N/A
2020 – N/A
2021 – 124 Weeks
2022 – 29 Weeks

f) Priority 6 (Patients who have been offered treatment but have declined to accept for non-Covid reasons, but still wish to remain on the waiting list)

During 2018-2020 these codes did not exist as they were introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2018 – N/A
2019 – N/A
2020 – N/A
2021 – 93 Weeks
2022 – 69 Weeks

g) No priority assigned

The Trust does not record this information.

For 2022, please also include a description of the procedure in question for each priority.

P1 – N/A

P2 – Excision of Skin Lesion

P3 – Parathyroidectomy

P4 – Primary Total Prosthetic Replacement of Knee Joint Using Cement

P5 – Other Specified Total Excision of Bone

P6 – Aspiration of Joint

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