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Request for Information Reference: 04.23.32

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

Email only

10th May 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 17th April 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 Use of dogs in Trust and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Does the trust use dogs for any therapeutic or medicinal purposes (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance) within your hospitals or for patients at home?

The Trust has recently introduced a new policy regarding, (POL/PET/0001 Guidance) on Access for Animals on Trust Premises. This policy will allow us to progress therapy dogs on our wards. As yet we have not arranged this to happen but have it planned for the coming months.

2. If so, are these dogs engaged as part of the NHS or through an external organisation (such as Support Dogs charity)

As above

3. Please could you specify how many dogs have been engaged for each of the last ten calendar years (2012-2022), broken down by purpose. (eg. PAT / autism/epilepsy/ diabetes assistance)

Zero

4. Please list the main breeds used with the most commonly used breeds first.
5. How many full time members of staff (trainers, handlers, officers etc) worked with these dogs for each of the years in the same period?
6. What was the trust's total budget for each of these years and how much was allocated to the dog unit?

Not applicable

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