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Request for Information Reference: 04.23.21

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Email only

12<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Sustainability and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**To elaborate, an environmental or sustainability focus might include audits/research projects involving any of: carbon reduction/decarbonization, emissions, energy efficiency, renewables, environmental impact, the use of single use plastics, food waste, sustainability of care models, waste disposal.**

### **1. The number of registered audits/QIP/research projects (planned and completed) since October 2020 at your trust**

97 – Clinical audits  
321 – Completed research studies  
105 – Research studies opened since October 2020

### **2. The number of audits/QIP/research projects that have an environmental/sustainability focus as part of their agenda**

The Trust has a lot of completed initiatives with a sustainability focus – our Green Plan records 48 objectives/actions as complete, however these do not necessarily follow the format of a QIP/research project.

In terms of specific research / audit projects the Trust completed a 360 degree sustainability assessment of Intensive Care in partnership with Phillips which was a unique piece of work assessing all aspects of environmental impact within ITU and leading to a number of recommendations.

**3. A breakdown of the topics that the environmental/sustainability audits/QIP/ research projects focus on**

There is not a specific list of QIP / Research projects but sustainability initiatives have fallen under the brackets of:

- Estates and Facilities
- Travel and Transport
- Catering and Nutrition
- Supply Chain
- Models of Care
- Medicines and Clinical Care
- Workforce
- Adaptation

**4. Whether your Trust has a sustainability lead**

The Trust has a Board Level Sustainability Lead, a dedicated Sustainability Lead as well as colleagues dedicated to lead on specific Key Areas.

**5. Whether your Trust has a sustainability policy included in clinical governance meetings and junior doctor induction materials.**

Sustainability is only included in clinical governance meetings on a voluntary basis or for special topics agreed within the Care Group. All staff are required to complete the 'Delivering an et Zero NHS' E-Learning module, both new starters and the existing workforce.

**6. Does your trust have a sustainability working group/board and how many clinicians are on this**

There is a quarterly Sustainable Development Group meeting – currently there is one clinician on the group but we hope to expand this. There are also a number of lower level working groups being established at department level focussing on issues which can be addressed at the departmental level.

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**