

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: 08.23.72

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

Email only

5th September 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 31st August 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 Robotic Bridger and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please could you kindly assist by answering the following questions regarding your Trusts use of RPA (Robotic Process Automation) under the freedom of information act.

Process Robotic Automation is a productivity tool that can mimic, emulate and automate repetitive, high -volume, labour intensive processes including data entry, data extraction and assigning data to/from different applications.

1. Does your trust currently used RPA (Robotic Process Automation)

Yes

2. Which departments within your trust currently use RPA (Robotic Process Automation)

None at present no active processes as previous ones no longer used. The Trust are looking to develop new ones over the coming months.

3. Who supplies your licensing for Robotic Process Automation

Blue Prism

4. How many bots have your purchased and over what period?

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5. Who provides the professional development? is this in house or an external provider and if so, who?

Largely in house with advice from Blue Prism

6. What is your total yearly budget spend on RPA in FYE 21/22

£96,000

7. What is your predicted spend on RPA for FYE 22/23

None, other than using existing staff for development

8. Which departments have been identified for RPA projects

Clinical areas, IT and Workforce

9. Is the trust intending to expand the use of RPA

Yes

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