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Request for Information Reference: 09.23.47

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

Email only

28th September 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 15th September 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 Ultrasound for Giant Cell Arteritis and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

FOI REQUEST:

PMRGCA UK represents the interests of people suffering from Giant Cell Arteritis, the condition for which urgent recognition and treatment is essential as delays of even a few hours can result in loss of sight or blindness.

In response to our FOI request, NHS England have informed us that in their 2019 exercise GIRFT ('Getting it right first time') Rheumatology survey, your Trust was one of the 71 trusts in England that replied NO to the question 'Do you have access to ultrasound for Giant Cell Arteritis'.

To help us argue for better services for the vulnerable group of people we represent, I would be grateful if you could let us know whether this is still the case - in which case what is preventing this access - or whether you can now provide this urgent service.

Ultrasound for the detection of giant cell arteritis was provided by this Trust when we delivered a vascular service. Since the vascular service is now provided by another provider, the Trust no longer has staff within radiology who have the required specialist expertise.

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