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Request for Information Reference: 09.23.27

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Strokes and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**1. Does the trust have, or is the trust looking to obtain a HASU (Hyper Acute Stroke Unit) status?**

Yes, a single site Hyper acute unit based at UHND

**2. If yes, what is the trust's HASU status?**

30 bed hyper acute/acute unit

**3. If not, what is the trust's timeline to gain the HASU status?**

N/A

**4. How does the trust manage stroke litigation?**

The Trust's indemnifier, NHS Resolution, litigate, negotiate and agree settlements on our behalf.

Our litigation is managed via the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST). CNST handles all clinical negligence claims against member NHS bodies where the incident in question took place on or after 1 April 1995 (or when the body joined the scheme, if that is later). Although membership of the scheme is voluntary, all NHS Trusts (including Foundation Trusts) in England currently belong to the scheme.

**5. What were the trust's costs for managing stroke litigation in the financial year 2022/2023?**

The Trust does not hold the most accurate information regarding stroke litigation claims made against the Trust. The Trust's indemnifier, NHS Resolution, negotiate and agree settlements on our behalf. Therefore in order to get the most accurate data we would advise you to contact NHS Resolution directly. If you wish to contact NHS Resolution in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance) you can do so via the following link: <https://resolution.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information/>

**6. How does the trust currently feed into the SSNAP (Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme)?**

SSNAP data entry is completed by our SSNAP Audit Facilitator who validates and verifies the data and enters into the SSNAP system.

**7. What steps is the trust taking to improve its SSNAP score?**

SSNAP scores are reviewed by the clinical lead and operational managers after each quarterly report and then, in more detail, within our bimonthly governance and stroke improvement group meetings. These meetings are multi-professional and attended by commissioners to ensure robust action plans to improve SSNAP performance can be made.

**8. Does the trust have a 'sophistication index'? E.g. A sophistication index shows the trust's ability to approve and implement projects**

No

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**