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Request for Information Reference: 10.23.43

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Email only

8th November 2023

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 13th October 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 Suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

I am seeking detailed information regarding endoscopy procedures, hydrogen breath tests, and waiting times for patients suspected to have Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) at your NHS Trust.

I would like to request the following information:

- 1. The number of patients currently on the endoscopy waiting list with suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease.**
- 2. The number of patients with suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease who have been on the endoscopy waiting list for more than six weeks.**
- 3. The number of patients with suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease who have been on the endoscopy waiting list for more than six months.**
- 4. The number of endoscopy procedures conducted for people with suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease in the years 2023 (to date), 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019.**
- 5. The average time a person with suspected Inflammatory Bowel Disease spent on the waiting list for an endoscopy in the years 2023 (to date), 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019.**

The Trust does not centrally record this information as the data is collected by procedure and not by condition and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

Please note that all subsequent questions are therefore answered for the total patients not broken down by condition.

6. The number of people with suspected Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) on the waiting list for a hydrogen breath test.

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7. The number of people with suspected Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) that have been on the waiting list for a hydrogen breath test for more than six weeks.

| | |
|------|-----|
| 2023 | ≤ 3 |
| 2022 | 28 |
| 2021 | 10 |
| 2020 | 14 |
| 2019 | ≤ 3 |

8. The number of people with suspected Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) that have been on the waiting list for a hydrogen breath test for more than six months.

Zero

9. The average time a person with suspected Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) spent on the waiting list for a hydrogen breath test in the years 2023 (to date), 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019.

Note partial booked appointment system introduced in 2022 (referral received, letter sent to patient, patient rings in and agrees an appointment – appointment within 6 weeks of phone call) due to DNA rate and lack of compliance with diet.

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 2023 | 3.5 weeks |
| 2022 | 5 weeks |
| 2021 | 4.9 weeks |
| 2020 | 6.9 weeks |
| 2019 | 2.8 weeks |

10. The number of hydrogen breath tests conducted for people with suspected Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO) in the years 2023 (to date), 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019.

Number of patients attending for Glucose BT minus number who had Lactose Breath test – leaving SIBO patients and non-hydrogen producing lactose intolerant patients.

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 2023 - 26-5 | 21 |
| 2022 - 90-10 | 80 |
| 2021 - 27-2 | 25 |
| 2020 - 27-6 | 21 |
| 2019 - 73-12 | 61 |

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