Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 19 December 2013 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding Doctors subject to Fitness to Practise Rulings. Specifically you asked:

**Please state how many doctors employed by your Trust are subject to Fitness to Practise rulings?**

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is a Lead Employer Trust (LET) and acts on behalf of Health Education North East in the recruitment, employment and management of 1,700 speciality medical trainees across the Northern Region. We have therefore included data on these LET trainees which would not be returned by the trusts in which they are currently placed for training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Trust</th>
<th>Name of doctor</th>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Restriction type: (a, b or c)</th>
<th>Date of GMC decision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT)</td>
<td>Ref: 1</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Aug 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDDFT</td>
<td>Ref: 2</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Oct 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDDFT</td>
<td>Ref: 3</td>
<td>LET Doctor</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Nov 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDDFT</td>
<td>Ref: 4</td>
<td>GP</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Sept 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDDFT</td>
<td>Ref: 5</td>
<td>LET Doctor</td>
<td>Erased from register</td>
<td>March 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Trust has withheld further details of each incident as to disclose this information would breach one of the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act.
1998 in that it would render it possible to identify the members of staff involved. We do not believe that it would be fair to these individuals or their families for their identities to be made public. We therefore believe that the exemption contained within section 40 of the Act is engaged.

Under the terms of the Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the Act apply. In this case for the names of the consultants the Trust is claiming an exemption under Section 21 of the Act, namely the information is otherwise accessible, e.g. on the GMC website.

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. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.
Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer