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Request for Information Reference: 05.15.15

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Email only

16 June 2015

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 May 2015 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 the taxpayers/CDDFT funding to travel overseas. Specifically you asked:

***I have been informed that that in the past Sue Jacques has used taxpayers/CDDFT funding to travel overseas.***

***Can you please provide full details of:***

- 1. All overseas travel at the expense of the taxpayer?***
- 2. Who accompanied Mrs Jacques?***
- 3. The reason for travel?***
- 4. Who sanctioned the travel?***
- 5. Full breakdown of costs involved?***
- 6. Any reports produced, post visit, to provide evidence of value for money?***

**County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:**

In response to your request, the Trust's Finance Department has examined its records as far back as 2007. Since becoming the Trust's Chief Executive in 2012, Mrs Jacques has not had any overseas travel funded by the Trust. She has travelled overseas twice, in her own time, on business on behalf of, and paid for by, third party organisations.

In her previous roles, Mrs Jacques travelled overseas at the Trust's expense as follows:

- August 2008: Travel to Boston, USA, to participate in an educational event for the Finance Directors of NHS North West as a guest of that region. Course costs were paid for by NHS North West. Mrs Jacques travel and accommodation costs were paid for by the Trust.
- August 2007: Travel, with two colleagues one of which was at the time in charge of the Trust's Health Informatics Department, to Rotterdam, to conduct a reference site visit for an IT system.

A breakdown of the costs is as follows:

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Flights</b>
Boston	£493.51	*
Rotterdam	£485.03	*

As it is more than six years since the two trips took place, the Trust no longer retains expense claims from the relevant period. Therefore, it is not possible to identify and quantify any additional travel and incidental expenses claimed for these visits.

\* With regards to further flight details and who sanctioned the costs in the above table please note, according to the Department of Health Code of Practice for Retention of Information, Annex D2, business and Corporate (non-Health) Records Retention Schedule, expense claims, including travel and subsistence claims and claims and authorisations, must only be retained for 5 years after the end of the financial year to which they relate. After this time the documents must be destroyed under confidential conditions.

Given the time lapse since the above trips took place, it is not known if any formal reports assessing value for money were prepared subsequent to the visits; however, justification for the trip would have been required in order for the expenses to be approved and paid.

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Officer**