Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 23 December 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 radiology outsourcing. Specifically you asked:

1. **Which radiology outsourcing companies has the Trust used for providing radiology services from 2011 to 2015 December?**

   Answer: Medica Reporting Ltd.

2. **How much has been paid to each of these companies for each year by the Trust from 2011 to 2015 until date for radiology reporting services?**

   Answer:
   
   - 2012-13: £1,316,356
   - 2013-14: £2,127,879
   - 2014-15: £2,404,147
   - 2015-16: £1,158,743 to end of November

3. **Which Solicitor companies/firms has the Trust used to obtain advice for dealing with disciplinary investigation and employment tribunal cases against consultants from 2011 to 2015?**
Answer: Ward Hadaway and Capsticks.

4. **How much money has been paid to each of these solicitors/firms/companies for obtaining these services in question 3 for dealing with disciplinary investigation/employment tribunal/county court cases against consultants for the years 2011 to 2015 up to date?**

Answer: We do not record information centrally which would allow us to identify charges for individual cases/consultants. In order to gather this information it would require a manual examination of every invoice received over a four year period which would take a number of days.

We are therefore 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 and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

5. **How much money has been paid by the Trust to each of these solicitors/firms/companies for obtaining these services in question 3 for dealing with disciplinary investigation/employment tribunal/county court cases against Radiology consultants for the years 2011 to 2015 up to date?**

Again, information is not centrally recorded which would allow us to identify any costs for Radiology Consultants. In addition, the information is not recorded on the invoice.

To check the background for every invoice would take over the statutory timescale. Even then most invoices just quote a case reference and a generic description for confidentiality reasons.

We are therefore 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 and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

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