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Request for Information Reference: 01.16.27

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Email only

10 February 2016

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 13 January 2016 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 cataract services. Specifically you asked:

1a) In the 12 months to January 2016 (or to the most recent month available), what was the average waiting time in days (referral to treatment time) for patients awaiting cataract surgery through County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust?

Answer:

Period	Average waiting time (days)
12 months to January 2016	
December 2015	87.7
November 2015	89.8
October 2015	78.0
September 2015	79.1
August 2015	84.5
July 2015	89.0
June 2015	97.6
May 2015	87.3
April 2015	81.0
March 2015	79.9
February 2015	92.0
January 2015	90.0

1b) In the 12 months to January 2015, what was the average waiting time in days (referral to treatment time) for patients awaiting cataract surgery through County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust?

Answer:

Period	Average waiting time (days)
12 months to January 2015	
December 2014	88.6
November 2014	93.3
October 2014	99.4
September 2014	96.9
August 2014	84.1
July 2014	96.3
June 2014	106.6
May 2014	139.0
April 2014	126.2
March 2014	119.4
February 2014	127.5
January 2014	116.2

2a) In the last 3 years, how many patients underwent cataract removal surgery at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust?

Answer:

Year	Number of patients
2013	1999
2014	2369
2015	2485

2b) In each of the last 3 years, how many individual cataract removal procedures were performed at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust?

Answer:

Year	Number of procedures
2013	2388
2014	2923
2015	3064

2c) Does County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust operate a criteria for determining the priority/eligibility of patients for cataract surgery? If so, please specify?

Answer: None.

2d) Under what circumstances are NHS cataract patients ineligible for 'second eye surgery' – i.e. cataract removal from both eyes?

Answer: There are no special circumstances, all patients are eligible to get the other eye done if any cataract is present in the other eye.

3a) Are toric intraocular lenses available for patients with astigmatism undergoing cataract surgery at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust?

Answer:

Yes	No
	x

3b) If yes to 3a, please list the conditions and criteria under which toric intraocular lenses are available to patients?

Answer: N/A.

3c) If yes to 3a, are toric intraocular lenses available for NHS patients with astigmatism undergoing NHS-provided cataract surgery at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust?

Answer:

Yes	No
	x

3d) If yes to 3c, please list the conditions and criteria under which toric intraocular lenses are available to NHS patients?

Answer: N/A.

3e) If yes to 3a and/or 3c, how many patients have been fitted with toric intraocular lenses in the last 12 months, for which data is available?

Answer: N/A.

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