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Request for Information Reference: 08.17.33

Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

14 September 2017

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 16 August 2017 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 emergency department closures. Specifically you asked:

***Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information on emergency department closures across your hospitals.***

***1. On how many occasions have your emergency departments been closed to new admissions during financial years 2010/2011, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17?***

Answer: 1 in June 2014.

***2. For each emergency department closure, please state the duration of and the reason for the closure?***

Answer: DMH A&E was closed for 2 hours on 6th June after two adults presented at the department who had been contaminated by an unknown chemical. The department was closed in order to limit risk of exposure to other patients and staff. The chemical was identified as mercaptoethanol which on contact causes irritation of the skin or eyes and can cause breathing difficulties or shortness of breath

**3. For each emergency department closure, please also state the number of patients which were diverted elsewhere as a result of the department closing?**

Answer: This data is not recorded.

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

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
Freedom of Information Officer