Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 24 November 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 mothballed wards. Specifically you asked for:

*I write under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information on ‘mothballed’ wards across your hospitals. A ‘mothballed’ ward is an empty and unused ward, which is not operational nor in day-to-day use. They are sometimes referred to as ‘fallow’ wards.*

1. **As of 1 September 2017, how many ‘mothballed’ wards existed across your hospital site? Please state the duration that each ward was ‘mothballed’.
   a. How many beds were there across your ‘mothballed’ ward/s?
   b. What is the longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward?

2. **As of 1 September 2016, how many ‘mothballed’ wards existed across your hospital site? Please state the duration that each ward was ‘mothballed’.
   a. How many beds were there across your ‘mothballed’ ward/s?
   b. What is the longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward?

3. **As of 1 September 2015, how many ‘mothballed’ wards existed across your hospital site? Please state the duration that each ward was ‘mothballed’.
   a. How many beds were there across your ‘mothballed’ ward/s?
   b. What is the longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward?

4. **As of 1 September 2014, how many ‘mothballed’ wards existed across your hospital site? Please state the duration that each ward was ‘mothballed’.
   a. How many beds were there across your ‘mothballed’ ward/s?
b. What is the longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward?

5. As of 1 September 2013, how many ‘mothballed’ wards existed across your hospital site? Please state the duration that each ward was ‘mothballed’.

a. How many beds were there across your ‘mothballed’ ward/s?
b. What is the longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward?

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

Answer: Question 1 – 5

Darlington Memorial Hospital and University of Durham – None

Bishop Auckland Hospital – From Sept 2017 - Ward 17 (1 ward and 17 beds)

Richardson Community Hospital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Number of ‘mothballed’ wards and duration each ward was ‘mothballed’</th>
<th>Total beds across ‘mothballed’ ward/s</th>
<th>Longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-17</td>
<td>1 RCH</td>
<td>24 + 8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-16</td>
<td>1 RCH</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-15</td>
<td>1 RCH</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Weardale Community Hospital

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>Number of ‘mothballed’ wards and duration each ward was ‘mothballed’</th>
<th>Total beds across ‘mothballed’ ward/s</th>
<th>Longest duration that any single bed was in a ‘mothballed’ ward</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4 WCH</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-Sep-16</td>
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<td>01-Sep-13</td>
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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