

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 02.18.50

Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

15 March 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 27 February 2018 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 Ophthalmology. Specifically you asked:

Physical capacity

- 1. How many ophthalmology testing/consulting rooms does your Trust have in total? (Please include outpatient rooms/testing cubicles/mobile testing facility rooms etc)?***

Answer:

Darlington Memorial Hospital: 28

Bishop Auckland Hospital: 14

University Hospital of North Durham: 12

- 2. How many theatre sessions does ophthalmology use per week?***

Answer: Average 11 sessions this year.

Please state in number of sessions – e.g. 1 full day is two sessions.

- 3. Do you use mobile facilities either on site or in the community (e.g. motorised or tow-able facilities - e.g. see images)***

Answer: No.



4. ***If you answered yes to question 3, how many rooms do these provide?***

Answer: N/A.

5. ***If you answered no to question 3, do you have any plans to add mobile facilities?***

Answer: No.

6. ***Do you offer NHS care at weekends – i.e. six or seven day working***

Answer: Not routinely.

Workforce Capacity

7. ***How many ophthalmologists do you currently employ (all grades)?***

Answer: 11.25 FTE.

8. ***How many ophthalmology posts (all grades) are currently vacant?***

Answer: 2.2 FTE.

9. ***Are you experiencing recruitment difficulties in ophthalmology?***

Answer: Yes.

10. ***If you answered yes to question 9, please tick all the grades and staff groups where you are experiencing recruitment difficulties***

- ***ophthalmology consultant grades*** - Yes
- ***ophthalmology SAS grades (including specialist doctors and associate specialists)*** - Yes
- ***junior doctor grades***
- ***medical training grades***
- ***ophthalmic nurses*** - Yes
- ***optometrists*** - Yes

- **contact lens opticians** - Yes
- **orthoptists** - Yes

Department Management

11. Do you have a departmental manager(s) for ophthalmology, and if so how many?

Answer: No dedicated manager. Manager covers 5 other service areas.

12. How many years has he/she been in post? Please tick one box (if more than one manager answer based on the lead/head manager)

Answer: 1 Year

13. Does he/she also manage other non-ophthalmic facilities?

Answer: Yes

14. What is his/her Agenda for Change Pay band?

Answer: 8A

External Capacity

15. Do you subcontract ophthalmology capacity from the independent sector?

Answer: Yes

16. If you answered yes to question 15, please tick the statement(s) that apply

Answer: on an ad hoc short-term basis when there are pressures

Paying Patients

17. Does your Trust provide or provide facilities for private ophthalmology services?

Answer: No

18. Do your employed ophthalmologists practise in these?

Answer: No

19. Do your employed ophthalmologists operate their own private practices from your premises?

Answer: No

20. Do independent ophthalmology providers provide services from your premises?

Answer: No

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