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Request for Information Reference: 04.18.29

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Email only

15 May 2018

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 16 April 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 thyroid surgery. Specifically you asked:

***1). Do any of the hospital (s) in your Trust/ Health Service organisation admit as day case or longer patients who are admitted to undergo thyroid surgery?***

Answer: Yes.

***If no, there is no need to answer the rest of these questions. Please just confirm with the answer “no” to question 1, including the name of your Trust or other Health Service organisation in your reply***

***If the answer to question 1 is ‘Yes’ yes then please answer the following additional questions***

***2) Thyroid surgery in your Trust or other health service organisation***

***2a) How many consultant surgeon(s) in your Trust or other health service organisation undertake thyroid surgery operations?***

Answer: 3-ENT, 3-General Surgery.

**2b) what are the parent specialties of each of the surgeons undertaking thyroid surgery operations e.g. general surgery, endocrine surgery, otolaryngology, OMFS etc. Please give numbers for each e.g. 2 Otolaryngology, 1 General Surgery etc?**

Answer: 1 Endocrine surgeon, 1 Vascular surgeon and 1 ENT surgeon

**2c) In 2017 (1 January to 31 December 2017) how many thyroid operations procedures did each consultant surgeon undertake (include number undertaken by other team members where the patients were under the care of the consultant)? Please break down also by parent specialty E.g. Consultant 1 Gen Surg 25 operations, Consultant 2 Gen Surg, 10 operations, Consultant 3 Otolaryngology, 18 operations etc. In case of consultants working together on the same patient at the same time, please just include the information for the consultant under whose care the patient was admitted?**

Answer: The table below answers Q2 (a, b &c) – provided by the Information Dept.

Specialty	Specialty Description	Total
100	General Surgery	49
100	General Surgery	3
120	Ear Nose And Throat	1
120	Ear Nose And Throat	68
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>121</b>

**2d) i) How many of the consultant surgeons undertaking thyroid surgery in your Trust or other health service organisation submit all or most of their thyroid patient outcome data to the United Kingdom Register of Thyroid and Endocrine Surgery (UKRETS) provided by British Association of Thyroid and Endocrine Surgery?**

Answer: 1.

**ii) Of this group what is the breakdown of their parent specialties e.g. 1 general surgery, 1 otolaryngology etc.**

Answer: 1 ENT.

**2e) With regard to the local Thyroid cancer MDT how many of the consultant surgeons undertaking thyroid surgery in your Trust or other health service organisation are:**

**i) Core members of the local thyroid cancer MDT.  
 Number = (1-ENT, 5-General Surgery)**

**Please also give breakdown by parent speciality**

**ii) Extended members of the local thyroid cancer MDT. Number = (0-ENT, 5-General Surgery)**

**Please also give breakdown by parent speciality**

**iii) Not connected with the local thyroid cancer MDT Number = (0-ENT, 0- General Surgery)**

**Please also give breakdown by parent speciality**

**2f) Which Trust or other health service organisation and which hospital site hosts the local thyroid Cancer MDT that connected surgeons attend?**

Answer: James Cook University Hospital.

**3) This question only applies if your Trust or other Health Service Organisation Hosts the local Thyroid MDT.**

**3a) What is the frequency of the local thyroid cancer MDT meeting? ie weekly, fortnightly, monthly?**

Answer: Monthly

**3b) Is the MDT:**

**i) 'Stand alone**

Answer: Yes'

**ii Adjacent in time to the Head and Neck MDT but not within the Head and Neck MDT?**

Answer: No

**iii) Within the Head and Neck MDT?**

Answer: No

**iv) Other?**

Answer: N/A.

**v) What medical / surgical / diagnostic specialties are represented in the CORE membership of the MDT (doctors only)?**

Answer: Endocrine

**vi) What medical / surgical / diagnostic specialties are represented in the EXTENDED membership of the MDT (doctors only)?**

Answer: Endocrine

**3c) Does the MDT Routinely discuss the following groups of patients:**

**i) Patients who are being investigated but have not yet had surgery but where pre-operative investigation has shown a high likelihood of cancer e.g. Thy 4 or 5 cytology or equivalent, or U 4 or 5 on Ultrasound?**

Answer: Yes

**ii) Patients who are being investigated but have not yet had surgery but where pre-operative investigation has shown an intermediate risk of cancer e.g. U3 ultrasound or Thy3f / a or equivalent on needle biopsy?**

Answer: Yes

**i) Patients who have had thyroid surgery and where histopathology has shown thyroid cancer in the resected specimen?**

Answer: Yes

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