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Darlington  
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
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Request for Information Reference: 05.18.08

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

Email only

4 June 2018

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 3 May 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 policy on compilation of a patients final Will & Testament. Specifically you asked:

***I wish to request your policy on compilation of patients Final Will & Testament within your hospital and your requirements for this to be allowed professionally?***

***I would also ask if a member of hospital staff can be randomly involved without the permission of senior staff or registrar in signing any will of a seriously ill patient and if so what would be the official requirements (safeguards) allowing a patient or the family of a patient permission to do this without a solicitor present, i.e. of sound mind and body etc.?***

***For example if a person was seriously ill and they requested or the family requested to make a will what would be your procedure for them to do so?  
I enclose an example of policy from a Newcastle hospital this is what I am asking for I am sure it will be a similar scenario within Durham.***

### **County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:**

Please see the attached End of Life policy. The Trust is looking at/ considering updating the section around the last wishes/ will service provision.

Please note, the Trust does advise families to contact their own solicitor who can visit them to make a will.

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**