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DL3 6HX  
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 07.18.12

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

Email only

6 August 2018

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 9 July 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 deficit at year end and consultancy services expenditure. Specifically you asked for:

***Under the Freedom of Information Act, may I please request the following information for the last five years (2016/17, 2015/16, 2014/15, 2013/14, 2012/13) for each of the following:***

### **1. Level of deficit at year end**

Answer: Under the terms of the Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the Act apply. In this case the Trust is claiming an exemption under Section 21 of the Act, namely the information is otherwise accessible from our website .The information requested is covered in the Trust's Annual Reports - <https://www.cddft.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/annual-reports/annual-report-documents.aspx>

### **2. External consultancy services spend**

Answer: Expenditure coded to 'external consultancy fees' and 'staff consultancy support' in the financial ledger.

2012/13	Not available
2013/14	£965,479
2014/15	£1,522,251
2015/16	£310,351
2016/17	£250,623

**3. Breakdown of consultancy spend by all sectors e.g health management consultancy, digital health consultancy, environment consultancy etc.**

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of transactions across the time period requested. This would take over the permitted timescale within the Act: therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to Section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

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**