

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: 07.18.55

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

Email only

10 September 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 30 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 longest wait in A & E. Specifically you asked for:

I write under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

1. What is the longest period of time a single patient waited in A&E to be seen, treated, and admitted/discharged during calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (Year to Date)? Please provide any details concerning why the patient waited this length of time and what their ailment/s were?

Answer: Longest wait time (A&E admission to discharge/inpatient admission) per calendar year.

Year	Wait	Primary diagnosis
2015	25hr 48mins	Cardiac conditions
2016	23hrs 7mins	Urological conditions
2017	21hrs 53mins	mental health condition
2018 YTD (Jan-Jul)	23hrs 11mins	Respiratory conditions

Please provide any details concerning why the patient waited this length of time and what their ailment/s were?

We are unable to provide specific details relating to these cases in the interests of protecting patient confidentiality; however the length of time any patient spends within an Emergency Department can be affected by a number of factors. Not restricted to, but in relation to the cases cited, these include:

- If a patient passes away while in the department, it can be in the best interests of the patient at the end of their life for continuity of care from staff for the patient and family at such a traumatic time to intentionally keep the patient within the department for a period of time.
- At times of extreme pressure on hospitals patients may be delayed leaving the ED until an appropriate bed on a ward area becomes available.
- If patients require transport home from a department then this has to be booked and a patient can choose to remain waiting within the department until the transport arrives, rather than be transferred to a ward or discharge waiting area.
- Some patients require specialist assessment and then admission to alternative healthcare facilities. Patients remain in the ED while these assessments and arrangements are made.

2. What are the top 10 longest periods of time a single patient waited to start consultant-led treatment from referral for non-urgent conditions during calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (Year to Date)? Please provide any details concerning why the patient waited this length of time and what their ailment/s were.

Answer: Longest wait times per calendar year (reporting period).

The reasons for the wait times are not centrally recorded. In order to gather the information requested it would take one member of staff in excess of the statutory timescale.

We are therefore 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.

The longest wait for each year specified are summarised in the table below:

Year	Wait time (weeks)	Total
2015	52	10
2016	52	5
	51	5

2017	52	1
	51	9
2018	51	7
	50	3

We have identified the specialties involved for the majority of cases below:

General Surgery	13
Ophthalmology	5
Plastic Surgery	4
Trauma & Ortho	6
Neurology	3

Others: Where the numbers are limited to one or two cases, we would not disclose speciality to minimise risks to patient's confidentiality as the identity of individual patients might be capable of being inferred.

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