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Request for Information Reference: 08.18.34

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Email only

13 September 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 16 August 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 collaboration with immigration enforcement. Specifically you asked:

This request refers to a time period of the second quarter of 2018, or the months April, May and June of 2018.

1. Documents describing procedures for collaboration with immigration enforcement, specifically including policy concerning to but not limited to the following:

a. Responses to requests for patient information by immigration enforcement. If this is covered by general policy concerning information shared with law enforcement, please provide this in addition.

b. Information routinely shared with immigration enforcement (as differentiated from information shared with the home office in general for the purposes of charging for secondary care).

**For example, this might include a policy of reporting suspicious patients or patients who do not have UK citizenship or indefinite leave to remain. If this is covered by general policy concerning information shared with law enforcement, please provide this in addition.*

c. Policy surrounding the presence of immigration enforcement officers on hospital grounds. If this is covered by general policy covering the presence of law enforcement officers, please provide this in addition.

- 2. The number of incidences of patient information being shared with immigration enforcement, and the number that occurred within the time period specified above. If the cost of a time-unlimited search is likely to exceed the limits imposed by the act, please limit it to incidents since 2016, and if that is likely to exceed the cost limits, solely provide the incidents in the time period above. Please also provide, if known(both for the period specified above and in total):**
 - a. The number of these incidents in which the patient was in primary care.**
 - b. The number of incidents where this information resulted in an arrest.**
 - c. The number of incidents where this information resulted in a deportation.**
 - d. The number of incidents where this information resulted in proceedings to deport, but where the deportation has not been completed. (or if numbers of deportations are not known, total numbers of proceedings initiated)**
 - e. The number of known incidents involving the presence of immigration enforcement officers on hospital grounds for the purposes of immigration enforcement (so excluding, for example, officers receiving medical treatment).**
- 3. Any and all written communication with immigration enforcement, and any notes, transcripts, minutes or summaries of meetings or conversations with immigration enforcement offices, redacted as appropriate.**

It is worth noting that this request differentiates between the home office in general and immigration enforcement(a law enforcement command within the home office), and does not relate to interactions your trust has with the home office relating to, for example, charging for secondary care, unless immigration enforcement becomes subsequently involved.

Please note that neither immigration enforcement nor healthcare is generally a national security issue, and unless there are specific risks to national security relating to a specific incident that means documents cannot be disclosed under section 24, we will appeal refusals to provide documentation to the information commissioner's office and through the courts if necessary.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

The Trust does not have any policies or procedures in place which specifically document collaboration with immigration enforcement or routine sharing of information with immigration enforcement.

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