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Request for Information Reference: 09.18.25

Direct line: 01325 743700  
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Email only

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 21 September 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 smoking on site. Specifically you asked for:

***(1) What is your Trust's policy regarding smoking on hospital grounds? Please specify.***

- ***Is smoking banned throughout the site?***

Answer: Yes

- ***Is smoking banned in the car park?***

Answer: Yes

- ***Is smoking banned in private vehicles while on site?***

Answer: The Trust would interpret its current policy as prohibiting smoking in private vehicles whilst on site, although this is not formally referenced in the current policy. The policy does prohibit smoking in lease cars and in hospital vehicles.

- ***Is smoking permitted anywhere on site?***

Answer: No.

- ***Are there smoking shelters (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?***

Answer: No

- ***Are there designated smoking areas (eg in the car park, in the grounds)?***

Answer: No.

***(2) On what date did the Trust adopt its current policy on smoking?***

Answer: - Original policy approved 24 September 2003, with most recent update at 25 May 2018.

***(3) Does the Trust have any plans to change its smoking policy? –***

Answer: The Trust will be reviewing its policy as part of progress towards Smoke Free NHS.

***If so, please specify what those changes will be. For example, do you intend to:***

- ***Remove existing smoking shelters and extend non-smoking areas***

Answer: These aspects are not applicable (see responses to question 1)

- ***Permit designated smoking areas or install designated smoking shelters***

Answer: The Trust is not intending to permit smoking on site.

***(4) If the answer to Q3 is 'YES' please specify the date on which the Trust plans to implement the changes.***

Answer N/A

***(5) What is the Trust's policy regarding vaping in (a) hospital buildings including wards, and (b) hospital grounds?***

Answer: The current policy does not support vaping in hospital buildings or grounds.

***(6) Does the Trust have any plans to change its vaping policy? Please specify how it will change and when.***

Answer: The Trust is considering its position with respect to vaping (particularly outdoors); this will be confirmed when the current policy is updated/ratified.

***(7) How are the Trust's smoking policies enforced? For example: signage, public address systems, use of CCTV cameras/wardens to monitor the site etc.***

Answer: Compliance with the current policy is supported via signage, public address systems at two sites and intervention by staff. Consistent enforcement remains an issue common to many NHS organisations.

***(8) How many recorded complaints has the Trust received from members of the public (including patients) about patients, visitors or staff smoking on hospital grounds since 1st January 2018?***

Answer: From 01 January 2018 to 28 September 2018 we have had no complaints and 5 Pals cases, about patients, visitors or staff smoking on hospital grounds.

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**