

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: 10.18.09

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

Email only

17 October 2018

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 5 October 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 support for prostate cancer patients. Specifically you asked for:

***The emotional and psychological impact of living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis is now well- recognised and has consequences, not only in terms of quality of life but also in overall healthcare outcomes and costs.***

***In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) Tackle Prostate Cancer and The Red Sock Campaign (supported by Wicked Minds healthcare consultancy) would like to understand what specific psychological support is offered to men living with prostate cancer through your organisation.***

***1. How many prostate cancer patients (new and existing) were registered within your Trust/hospitals between 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018?***

Answer: 554

Please Note: The Trust no longer provides Urology services; however, we did during the period that applies to this request.

Services to local patients are provided by either City Hospitals Sunderland (North Durham and DDES CCG area patients) – from about 2006 or by South Tees (Darlington CCG area patients) since July 2018.

**a. Of those how many were offered specialist psychological support services in the last 12 months (1st April 2017- 31st March 2018)?**

Answer: The Trust is unable to answer without a manual audit of all 544 patient records (each attendance for each would need to be audited). This would take a minimum of 15 minutes per patient, easily exceeding the reasonable time limit for these requests.

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.

**b. Of those how many were referred to specialist psychological support services in the last 12 months (1st April 2017- 31st March 2018)?**

Answer: The Trust is unable to answer without a manual audit of all 544 patient records (each attendance for each would need to be audited). This would take a minimum of 15 minutes per patient, easily exceeding the reasonable time limit for these requests.

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.

**2. Do you offer psychological support services for families and or carers? (Yes or No)**

Answer No. No Trust service available

**a. If yes, how is this service offered? (e.g. everyone is proactively offered a referral as standard of care, or do families/carers request access to psychological support reactively)**

Answer: N/A

**b. What proportion of families/carers were referred to psychological support services in the last 12 months (1st April 2017- 31st March 2018)?**

Answer: Not applicable due to above.

**3. Do men have access to other psychological support services beyond active treatment (i.e. those that are under active surveillance and living beyond cancer)? (Yes or No)**

Answer: No, Not from within the Trust

**4. Who provides other psychological support service for your prostate cancer patients? choose from below:**

- a. NHS commissioned mental health service (funded by CCG/NHS England or Trust)**
- b. National charitable organisation (e.g. Macmillan, Prostate Cancer UK)**
- c. Local support group (volunteer-led)**
- d. Hospice**
- e. Other (please specify)**

Answer: Hospice

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**