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Request for Information Reference: 10.18.19

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Email only

9th November 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 12 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 sanitary products. Specifically you asked:

- 1. Does your Trust provide free female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) to in-patients?**

Answer: The Trust does provide sanitary products if required by patients within Gynaecological wards or clinics.

- 2. Does your Trust have a policy covering the provision of female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) to in-patients? If yes, please provide this policy.**

Answer: The Trust does not have such a policy.

- 3. How many premises with inpatient beds are there in your Trust, and at how many of these premises are female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) available to purchase on site? For example, in shops or bathroom vending-machines.**

Answer: There are 8 sites with inpatient beds. Sanitary products would be supplied to patients receiving care within Family Health and there are also shops on site which sell sanitary products.

4. How much did your Trust spend (£) on female sanitary products (such as sanitary pads and tampons, but excluding maternity sanitary products) in the following financial years:

- 2017/18
- 2016/17
- 2015/16
- 2014/15
- 2013/14
- 2012/13

And, where possible, please provide a breakdown of this spending against the products' NHS Supply Chain catalogue codes?

Answer: Please find response to Trust spend on female sanitary products, please note the data is only available dating back to 2014/15:

Code EOC018 Packs 10: suppliers NHS Supply Chain, all prices are inclusive of VAT

2014/15:	5994 packs, cost £2,652.28
2015/16:	4725 packs, cost £2,113.47
2016/17:	4135 packs, cost £1,788.05
2017/18:	3983 packs, cost £1,614.43

Please note that the spend does include maternity; the NHSSC report gives totals only.

5. How many inpatient beds were there in your Trust for each of the following financial years?

- 2017/18: 1111
- 2016/17: 1120
- 2015/16: 1168
- 2014/15: 1367
- 2013/14: 1385
- 2012/13: 1353

Total acute & community inpatient beds (excluding escalation beds), snapshot as at the 1 April each financial year.

6. Please provide a list of all items that are supplied to in-patients free of charge in your Trust, and a list of all items which you advise in-patients to bring with them for an overnight or extended stay.

Answer: Patients are advised to come into hospital prepared as appropriate for staying a few days. This includes a change of clothing and toiletries. This information is available on the Trust's website – www.cddft.nhs.uk

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