

Request for Information Reference: 10.18.36
Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

6 November 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 24 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 car parking charges. Specifically you asked for:

I am writing to you regarding the issue of car parking charges at hospitals in your remit.

Paid parking for visitors and patients at hospitals seems outrageous. The sick and the vulnerable are disproportionately hit by hospital parking fees. This clear injustice is backed up by several major national charities. CLIC Sargent found that some families are spending £50 a week on parking when their child is having treatment.

I am therefore contacting every NHS Trust in the country to gain a greater understanding of this practice. I request for you to respond to this freedom of information (FOI) request.

I would like to know from you:

1. Do hospitals in your area charge patients/visitors to park in their own car park?

Answer: The following sites charge for car parking:

- Darlington Memorial Hospital
- University Hospital of North Durham
- Bishop Auckland Hospital
- Chester le Street Hospital

Synchronicity Care Limited

Registered Address: Hempsons Solicitors, West One, Forth Banks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3PA

Registered Company Number: 9679630 (July 2015)

2. If so, how much do they charge?

Answer:

Darlington Memorial Hospital	University Hospital of North Durham	Bishop Auckland Hospital	Chester le Street Hospital
Up to 2 hours - £2.50 Up to 3 hours - £3.00 Up to 24 hours - £4.00	Up to 2 hours - £2.50 Up to 3 hours - £3.00 Up to 24 hours - £4.00	Up to 2 hours - £2.50 Up to 3 hours - £3.00 Up to 24 hours - £4.00	Up to 2 hours - £1.20 40p per hour thereafter Up to 8 hours - £3.60 Up to 24 hours - £4.00

3. Do the hospitals operate their car park under a PFI contract?

Answer:

- Darlington Memorial Hospital - No
- University Hospital of North Durham - Yes
- Bishop Auckland Hospital - Yes
- Chester le Street Hospital - Yes

County Durham and Darlington Services (CDD services) is a wholly owned subsidiary of County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, they provide Estates, Facilities and Procurement services and reply as above.

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