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Darlington  
DL3 6HX  
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 02.19.56

Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

29 March 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 26 February 2019 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 shifts in A&E. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***Can you please provide me with the following information for the past three financial years and the current financial year to date (broken down by year):***

- 1. The number of occasions where a doctor shift in your accident and emergency departments was left unfilled?***

Answer: Please see spreadsheet attached.

- 2. The number of complaints made by doctors at your accident and emergency departments due to having to fill rota shift absences? Please provide a copy of the text of each complaint?***

Answer: None.

- 3. The number of occasions that rota shift gaps in your accident and emergency departments have been filled by agency workers? Please state the cost of this to your Trust in each of these years?***

Answer: Please see attached spreadsheet and note, the spreadsheet answer to Q3 & Q4 only shows medical staff. The request does not specify doctors only however, we estimate that it would take one member of staff well above the statutory timescale

to collate the information for all professional groups. The information we are able to provide is limited by available information. Therefore, we are 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 quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

**4. *The number of occasions that rota shift gaps in your accident and emergency departments have been filled by staff working additional shifts? Please state the cost of this to your Trust in each of these years?***

Answer: Please see attached spreadsheet and note, the spreadsheet answer to Q3 & Q4 only shows medical staff. The request does not specify doctors only however, we estimate that it would take one member of staff well above the statutory timescale to collate the information for all professional groups. The information we are able to provide is limited by available information. Therefore, we are 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 quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

Please note that due to the nature of the rotas for University Hospital of North Durham prior to April 2018, we unable to separate the agency and departmental staff for the shifts covered in previous years (they are therefore grouped as one).

For the current year they have been separated and we have provided an approximate cost.

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**