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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: 02.19.69

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

Email only

27 March 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 27 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 child admission uncertain medical status. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would like information regarding admissions to your hospital relating children between 0-6 months who arrive to the hospital with an uncertain medical status in the last 5 years (2018/2017/2016/2015/2014)?***

***I would like to request the following information about how many babies from 0 to 6 months of age entered A&E with an unknown medical status?***

***I would like to know how many of them, after the proper exams or the medical test (x-rays or scanners), the medical staff discovers that the child has significant and numerous fractures, bruises or broken bones in their body, which are the result of non-accidental injuries and abuse by parents?***

***I also want to know in how many of these cases the parents are arrested and placed in police custody accused of abuse of their child, and how many of these children have been sent to foster care?***

***If possible, I want to obtain a copy of the hospital's procedure model in cases where the parents are suspected of abuse?***

***Please break down the information by years if it possible and in an electronic format PDF or excel?***

**County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:**

The Trust is unable to answer your request as the current reporting system Symphony does not break down/ code data down to this level. In order to gather this information it would require a manual trawl through patient notes which would take one member of staff a number of days. 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.

Any baby attending hospital or urgent care departments where there are unexplained or/ and suspicious injuries including bruises and fractures will be investigated under statutory safeguarding procedures both LSCB multi agency procedures and the Trust would follow their own safeguarding procedures also. There is multi agency involvement in these cases such as health, police and local authority and appropriate and proportionate steps must be taken to safeguard the child.

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**