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Request for Information Reference: 03.19.01

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Email only

20 March 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 1<sup>st</sup> March 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 ECG monitoring. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like you to provide answers to the questions below.***

***If you cover more than one hospital, please provide the following information for each of the hospitals covered under your trust broken down individually***

***The questions are in relation to ECG monitoring which is carried out only in the hospital setting.***

***Please supply details of:***

**1. *How many tests in the following categories do you perform each year?***

- **24hr Holter** - 3096
- **48hr Holter** - 314
- **72hr Holter** - 0
- **7 day Holter** - 413
- **7 day event recorder** - 113
- **Other please specify** – N/A

**2. *Which monitoring modality do you use for the following, specify make and model?***

- **24hr Holter** – Spacelabs Lifecard
- **48hr Holter** – Spacelabs Lifecard

- **72hr Holter** – none
- **7 day Holter** – Spacelabs Lifecard
- **7 day event recorder** – Novacor R test
- **Other please specify** – N/A

**3. How many monitors do you have of each make/model?**

Answer: Spacelabs – 53, Novacor - 18

**4. How much is the service contract for each modality per year?**

Answer: Spacelabs £7,746, Novacor – no service contract

**5. How many of these are in repair/lost?**

Answer: 2

**6. What is the cost of repair if the device is not under a service contract?**

Answer: Not known

**7. What was the price paid per unit for each of the monitoring modalities above?**

Answer: Spacelabs £1,700-£1,900, Rtest - £1,883

**8. How much was the analysis software package (if purchased)?**

Answer: £40,558

**9. What is the cost of the service contract on the analysis software?**

Answer: £4042

**10. What is your annual spend on consumables for monitoring?**

- **Batteries**
- **Electrodes**
- **Alcohol wipes**
- **Razors**
- **Cleaning materials for monitors**
- **Replacement leads**

The items above are not itemised separately - The Trust purchase a large amount of electrodes / batteries / etc. but they are used for lots of different reasons and does not allocate cost to each procedure, therefore we are unable to provide the spend .

**11. What is the average salary band of staff analysing ambulatory ECG monitor data?**

Answer: B6

**12. How many of the staff employed to analyse ambulatory ECG data are working through a locum agency?**

Answer: zero

**13. What is the current waiting time from referral to monitor fitting? Please specify if waiting times vary for each modality.**

Answer: Approximately 3 weeks

**14. What is the current waiting time from monitor return to result availability? Please specify if waiting times vary for each modality.**

Answer: Approximately 3 weeks

**15. How many ambulatory monitoring patients require hospital transport per year?**

Answer: The Trust does not record this information

- **Is transport also used to return the monitor?**

Answer: The Trust does not record this information

- **What is the average cost per return?**

Answer: Unknown

**16. Does the patient also need to be transported back to hospital for removal?**

Answer: No

**17. What is the annual cost of transport services for ambulatory monitoring patients?**

Answer: Unknown

**18. Is outpatient monitoring capacity limited by inpatient demand for monitoring?**

Answer: No

**19. Are you meeting monitoring demand for?**

- **Routine monitoring referrals - Yes**

- **Urgent monitoring referrals** - Yes

**20. If not, what was your annual spend on breaching fines in the last financial year?**

Answer: N/A

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**