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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
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Request for Information Reference: 04.19.30

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Email only

15 May 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 15 April 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 the proposed Pathology Consolidation Network. Specifically you requested information as follows:

The Pathology network across the UK is undergoing changes within the NHS Improvement project and will see Durham and Darlington labs being a 'spoke' lab under the Agreement on partnership operating model which has now been agreed across all Trusts in the North East.

The following information that I would like to know:

- 1) What is the agreement on the partnership model for the Darlington and Durham Labs?***
- 2) Will the Darlington lab downsize?***
- 3) What will the impact be on the employment of lab staff such as MLA's?***
- 4) Would GP/Non urgent work still be booked in and/or processed at Darlington?***
- 5) How much money would the trust save under the proposed plan?***
- 6) When will the changes take effect?***
- 7) Is the Trust considering on outsourcing the lab to a service provider?***

8) Who can I contact for further information on the proposed plan?

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

There have been no firm decisions or confirmed plans made with regards to the NHS improvement project and collaborative working. The Trust is therefore unable to respond to the questions 1-7, as there is no information available on sites and services at this point.

The CEOs of all of the Trusts in the NE region with pathology services have agreed a willingness to look at collaborative working.

For question 8, Nicola Sherriff is representing CDDFT at regional collaboration meetings and so would be able to respond to further questions regarding future provision of pathology service within CDDFT locality. Email address: nicola.sherriff@nhs.net

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