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Request for Information Reference: 06.19.47

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Email only

19 July 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 25 June 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 decontamination/ sterilization for the years 2012/13-2017/18. Specifically you requested information as follows:

I have been tasked with doing research into the decontamination and sterilization process of surgical trays/instruments at various branches of the NHS.

- 1. Is decontamination/sterilization handled in-house or outsourced?***
- 2. What is the total number of trays process on a daily/monthly/yearly basis?***
- 3. How much does it cost to process and deliver trays?***
- 4. How much time is taken fully process one tray?***
- 5. How many times a day are surgical trays collected and processed?***
- 6. How many individual instruments are cleaned?***
- 7. How many times can an individual instrument be reused?***
- 8. What are the different surgical tray dimensions?***
- 9. What is the cost of the surgical equipment?***
- 10. How much staff is required to process surgical trays?***

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

- 1. Is decontamination/sterilization handled in-house or outsourced?***

Answer: Decontamination/ sterilisation is handled In house.

2. What is the total number of trays process on a daily/monthly/yearly basis?

Answer: 350/10,500/126,000.

3. How much does it cost to process and deliver trays?

Answer: Business Sensitive but cost varies dependant on size of tray.

4. How much time is taken fully process one tray?

Answer: Varies from tray to tray, 5 minutes for small trays, up to 30 minutes for complex trays.

5. How many times a day are surgical trays collected and processed?

Answer: 4, plus out of hours emergency callouts as required.

6. How many individual instruments are cleaned?

Answer: 300/7,500/112,000.

7. How many times can an individual instrument be reused?

Answer: Depends on the instrument, some have no 'life'.

8. What are the different surgical tray dimensions?

Answer: 280 x280 / 280 x460 / 460 x 460.

9. What is the cost of the surgical equipment?

Answer: Varies from single pounds to thousands, dependant on instrument.

10. How much staff is required to process surgical trays?

Answer: We have 42 members of staff in total.

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