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Darlington Memorial Hospital  
Hollyhurst Road  
Darlington  
DL3 6HX  
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100  
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 07.19.05

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

Email only

25 July 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 2 July 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 religions and beliefs. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***This is for the key chaplaincy body working with NHS England in order to promote equality for those of different religions and belief groups. The data acquired from this FOI will be collated with the data received from other Trust chaplaincy teams and any data will not be attributed to any one chaplaincy department.***

***I would like to receive the information requested in the attached document, and for this to be returned in electronic form.***

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

Please see complete questionnaire attached

- Chaplains are appointed to meet the spiritual, religious and pastoral needs of all patients, staff and families as per the 2015 guidelines. The demographic on which we base our paid chaplaincy appointments is provided by the information given us by patients on admission.
- Volunteers are recruited more widely based on experience and their ability to commit to an open “all faiths and none” approach without any evangelism or proselytising.



County Durham  
and Darlington

NHS Foundation Trust

- For all patient care, except where the denomination of the patient/family/staff member is specifically advised as being Roman Catholic, chaplains work ecumenically and openly and do not check the “credentials” of those who ask them for support.
- If a service user requests support from a faith and belief group leader not represented on the team, then we assist in finding an appropriate visitor from the patients faith/belief group community.

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 Office**