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Request for Information Reference: 07.19.51

Direct line: 01325 743700  
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Email only

14 August 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 22 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 post-mortems. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***I am currently carrying out some research into the post-mortem sector within NHS trusts & public mortuaries located within the United Kingdom. (All of which will receive the same request.) The following questions are designed not to identify any single person/patient, nor are they intended to represent the opinion of your trust/council. The following questions (if possible) are to be answered by all of the hospital mortuaries governed by your trust or public mortuaries that fall under your remit that actively take part in both coronial/hospital post mortems.***

- 1. What is the most amount of post mortem cases that you are able to carry out in a single post mortem session?***

Answer: 18

- 2. How many hospital post mortem examinations did you undertake between 1st April 2018 – 1st April 2019? (NHS only)***

Answer: 0

3. ***How many coronial post mortem examinations did you undertake between 1st April 2018 – 1st April 2019?***

Answer: 931

4. ***What is the average number of hospital post mortem examinations that you have undertaken over the past 3 financial years? (NHS only)***

Answer: 0

5. ***What is the average number of coronial post mortem examinations that you have undertaken over the past 3 financial years?***

Answer: 1014

6. ***How many brain & spinal cord donations have you carried out over within the mortuary over the past 3 financial years?***

Answer: 20

7. ***How many members of staff do you employ within the mortuary? (This includes administration staff)***

Answer: 8

8. ***What qualifications (In relation to mortuary activity) do your employees currently hold?***

Answer: Certificate in anatomical technology, Diploma in anatomical technology; level 3 diploma in anatomical technology

9. ***What NHS pay bands are your employees in? (NHS only)***

Answer: band 3 band 4 band 5

10. ***What is your capacity for the storage of deceased?***

Answer: 125

11. ***Does your mortuary charge undertakers/service users for storage of deceased? (Assuming that the deceased would remain in your care for an extended period of time once they have been released to go.)***

Answer: No

- 12. If the answer to question 11 is yes, are the premises risk assessed and do they coincide with HTA regulations?**

Answer: N/A

- 13. Do you store deceased patients' offsite with non NHS service users? (NHS only)**

Answer: No

- 14. Do you actively undertake increased risk post mortem work? (Blood borne)**

Answer: Yes

- 15. Do you actively undertake increased risk post mortem work? (Air borne)**

Answer: Yes

Please note the information above relates to combined workload at both UHND and DMH sites.

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



County Durham  
and Darlington  
NHS Foundation Trust

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**