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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: 10.19.39

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

Email only

11 November 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 22 October 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 digital communications. Specifically you requested information as follows:

- 1. How many of your doctors and healthcare professionals are still using SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Signal, Telegram or similar messaging solutions to share patient data?***

Answer: None

- 2. Does your trust have a contract with a digital communications company for inter team communication (e.g. Induction, Hospify, Siilo, Forward, Medic Bleep, Common Time, Ascom, Vocera etc)? Please state which digital communications company.***

Answer: No

- 3. Is this communications solution being used across the whole trust or just in pockets (e.g. wards, units or departments)? If in pockets, which wards, units and departments, and why only in those areas?***

Answer: N/A

- 4. If your trust does have a contract with a digital communications company, do you have a data sharing agreement and clinical safety assessment in place with this company?***

Answer: N/A

5. ***Was there any period in the last 3 years when your trust has been using a digital communications solution without a data sharing agreement in place?***

Answer: N/A

6. ***How many patients' data has been inappropriately shared without this governance? How many patients' data is expected to be still shared without the right governance over the next 2 years?***

Answer: N/A

7. ***NHS England states that each software provider and NHS organisation has to do DCB 0129/0160 before deploying a technology in order to make sure of its clinical safety – did your trust do DCB 0129/0160 before deploying a digital communications solution?***

Answer: N/A

8. ***If not, what is your trust doing about it?***

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:



County Durham  
and Darlington  
NHS Foundation Trust

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**