

Executive Corridor
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: 10.19.43

Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

20 November 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 23 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 smoking status. Specifically you requested information as follows:

I wish to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act as follows:

1. Please confirm or deny if there are any requirements from your local CCG to ration any treatment or surgery options to people based on their smoking status (i.e. not limited to smoking cessation treatments); if confirm, please provide details.

Public interest arguments

There is a clear public interest for disclosure of this information, in that disclosure will:

- ***Further the understanding of and participation in the public debate of issues of the day, and will allow a more informed debate of issues under consideration by public bodies***
- ***Promote accountability and transparency by public authorities for decisions taken by them***
- ***Allow individuals to understand decisions made by public authorities affecting their lives***
- ***Bring to light information on any restrictions by CCGs on access to treatments based on a patient's smoking status***



County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

We would ask you to direct this request to our Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Any decision to restrict or ration care would be enacted through pathways for referrals into the Trust by primary care rather than directly with the Trust. The Trust would not necessarily be aware of, or have access to, pathway documentation agreed between the CCGs and primary care.

You should contact our local commissioning colleagues in the first instance. If you wish to contact the local CCG's in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance) you can contact them via the following emails addresses:

Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield CCG
Email: desccg.foi@nhs.net

Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Email: DARCCG.FOI@nhs.net

North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
Email: NDUCCG.FOI@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



County Durham
and Darlington
NHS Foundation Trust

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