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Request for Information Reference: 11.19.26

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Email only

12 December 2019

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

Thank you for your request for information received on 14 November 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 the clinical decision support systems. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***I am researching the use of clinical decision support systems used in NHS Trusts. As such I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).***

***To assist you, what I mean by clinical decision support systems, these are stand alone or integrated software which helps clinical staff make safe decisions and take appropriate action. They can be algorithms, care plans, clinical referencing, or clinical condition specific guidelines which incorporate treatment or decision making.***

***Proprietary examples include:***

- ***BestPractice (BMJ)***
  - ***ClinicalKey, ExpertPath, STATdx, Arezzo (Elsevier)***
  - ***DXS***
  - ***DynaMed, DynaMed Plus, Isabel (EBSCO)***
  - ***First DataBank, Zynx (Hearst)***
  - ***IBM Watson, Micromedex (IBM)***
  - ***iRefer (MedCurrent)***
  - ***MedicinesComplete (BNF)***
  - ***Provation***
  - ***LexiComp, UpToDate (WoltersKluwer)***
  - ***ThinkResearch (ThinkResearch Corporation)***

***Could you please give me the following information please:***

***1. Does the Trust operate any clinical decision support systems (examples above)?***

***◦ If so, which ones?***

Answer: Yes, First Databank.

***2. What is the cost of licences (and any other support) the Trust paid on clinical decision support systems in the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19***

Answer: The costs of the FDB decision support data are subsumed within a wider system package purchased and sublicensed from the Trust EPR provider and cannot be directly attributed.

***3. Has the Trust developed their own electronic clinical decision support system(s)?***

Answer: No.

***4. If so, what were the WTE and total funding costs incurred in development of their own clinical decision support system(s) for the financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively?***

Answer: N/A.

***5. What was the Trusts' total operating budget for financial years 2017-18 & 2018-19 respectively?***

Answer: 2017-18 £441.374m  
2018-19 £448.035m

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.



County Durham  
and Darlington

NHS Foundation Trust

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 Officer