

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: 12.19.38

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

Email only

27 January 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 23 December 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 deaths on Ward 52. Specifically you requested information as follows:

What is the total number expected and unexpected deaths on Ward 52 over the last 3 months?

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

The Trust is choosing to answer your request at the date it was submitted. In the period 1st September to 30th November 2019, 26 patients died whilst on Ward 52. To definitively split this total between expected and unexpected deaths would require a review of each individual set of cases notes by a consultant. Experienced clinical staff estimate that, to review 26 sets of notes would require more than £450 statutory resource limit, which equates to around 18.25 hours at £25 per hour.

The Trust follows national guidelines for mortality reviews and reviews deaths meeting specified threshold criteria, considering the extent to which deaths are considered avoidable. It can take several months for reviews to be completed and the results validated through our Mortality Reduction Committee. We would be able to provide historical information, for earlier periods, for Ward 52 covering completed reviews (although this would still not provide a definitive split of all deaths for the reasons outlined above) or – at some point following the completion of reviews, the numbers and outcomes of any reviews undertaken for Ward 52 for the period in question. You may wish to contact us again should this information assist you.



County Durham
and Darlington

NHS Foundation Trust

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.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer