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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Request for Information Reference: 01.20.04

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Email only

31 January 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 3rd January 2020 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 clinical negligence. Specifically you requested information as follows:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request the following information for each of 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 separately?

1. How many cases of clinical negligence/misdiagnosis were there across the Trust?

Answer:

2016	2017	2018	2019
6	4	3	1

a) Of these, how many patients died as a direct result of negligence or misdiagnosis?

Answer: This data is not specifically recorded within the Trust's claims management system.

b) How much did the Trust pay out for clinical negligence/misdiagnosis claims in total?

Answer:

2016	2017	2018	2019
£40,000	£26,500	£223,375	£3,000

(NOTE: The above figures reflect damages payments made to Claimants by the Trust's indemnifier; NHS Resolution, under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts risk pooling scheme)

c) What was the largest sum paid out to a claimant?

Answer:

2016	2017	2018	2019
£22,000	£25,000	£223,375	£3,000

2. How many claims has the Trust handled in relation to delayed sepsis diagnosis/misdiagnosis/negligence?

Answer:

2016	2017	2018	2019
1	0	3	2

a) Of these, under whose care/which discipline was the patient, i.e. A&E/ICU/urology etc. (if this exceeds the scope of the FOI request please omit)

Answer: The above claims were coded to the following specialties

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Claim 1	Emergency Department		Orthopaedics	Obstetrics/Maternity
Claim 2			Emergency Department	Emergency Department
Claim 3			Unscheduled Care/Urgent Care	

b) What was the patient outcome for each of the sepsis-related claims, including patient death as a result of misdiagnosis/negligence/delay in diagnosis?

Answer: Investigations are ongoing in relation to all of the claims identified above. Patient clinical outcome data is not specifically recorded within the Trust claims management system.

c) What was the settlement figure for each claim, broken down by compensation paid to the claimant and compensation paid for defence costs?

Answer: As the above claims are ongoing no payments have been made to date.

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