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Request for Information Reference 01.20.14

Direct line: 01325 743700  
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Email only

5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

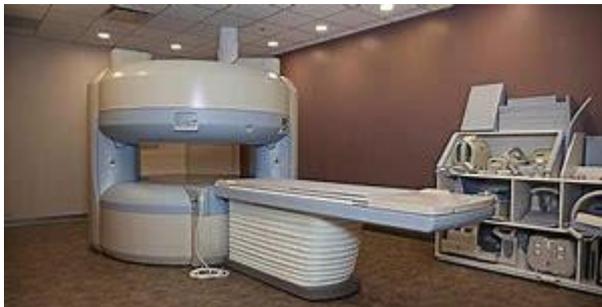
### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 10 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 the MRI Scans. Specifically you requested information as follows:

***a) Does your Trust have a process in place for patients who are unable to fit in, or use, an MRI machine but who may need a MRI scan? If so, what is this process?***

Answer: There is an option to send patients to the open magnet in Newcastle – please see the picture below. The difference is the patient is not completely enclosed within the magnet aperture. As you can see, it is open on one side as opposed to the vertical tunnel arrangement of a ‘normal’ scanner.



***b) Does your Trust send patients who may need an MRI scan who meet the criteria of being unable to use your Trusts’ scanners above, to other locations, for example, zoos or research facilities?***

Answer: No.

**c) Does your Trust pay other facilities such as zoos or research facilities for the use of their MRI machines? If so, how much did you Trust pay these facilities last financial year (2019-20)?**

Answer: No.

**d) If applicable, how many patients have needed an MRI in facilities provided in places other than your Trust last year? Please provide the location and reason for this?**

Answer: The Trust does not keep a record patients that require a referral to another hospital. As our procedure is to notify the referrer as to the reason for abandoning the scan and it is up to them to then decide the next step of their investigation.

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**