

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 01.20.23

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

Email only

29 January 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 15 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 deceased patients clothing. Specifically you requested information as follows:

This FOI request is in relation to Durham Teaching Hospital.

1) Please provide me with all and any documents held, including policies and procedures, regarding the return of a deceased patients clothes to their family.

2) Please also provide all and any documents held, including policies and procedures, regarding the non-return and circumstances of non-return, (including destruction), of a deceased patients clothes to their family.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:

Please see attached the Care after death policy.

Pg. 9 section 5.4: states the ward should dress the patient in a shroud before they leave the ward to go to the mortuary, and belongings should be given back to the family

Pg. 10 section 5.4.1: states if belongings are soiled permission is needed from the family for the ward to dispose.

The mortuary never dispose of patient belongings. They are always put in a patient property bag and kept with the patient. The funeral director collects the patient and their belongings.

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