

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: 06.20.12

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

7 July 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 9 June 2020 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to representative activity within the Trust and PPE, and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Are the Trust accepting representative activity within the hospital? And if not when do you predict this would be likely?

The Trust is currently not accepting representative activity within the hospital unless it is to support emergency cases or provide essential repairs. This is being reviewed on a regular basis and in line with government guidance. At this time we are unable to predict when this may change.

2. Are there changes in protocols within the hospital? If yes please state?

There is currently no representative activity. When activity is resumed, protocols will be revised in line with the guidance at that time.

3. Does the hospital provide PPE guidance for visitors/ sales representatives?

Visitors are being asked to wear their own face coverings when attending hospital but will be given a face mask in exceptional circumstances.

4. Does the hospital provide additional PPE?

PPE would be provided if required in a clinical setting.

5. Where do you feel remote working would be beneficial at this time? (I.e. are there any areas of the hospital where non-covid traditional support can be applied)?

Further clarification for this question was sought on 16 June 2020 and received the same day. This question was therefore amended to: is there a central contract for supplier representatives to contact, in relation to organising training and sales support moving forward?

Appointments are made via The Trust's supplier credentialing system called "IntelliCentrics" for representatives requiring to work with clinical engineering or being approved by a consultant in support of a procedure. The contact for the Trust is Paul Lincoln (paul.lincoln@nhs.net). As the organisation restarts to open up services from the 30 of June, Paul will be communicating to company representatives which areas/services are open via IntelliCentrics.

6. What timelines do you feel theatre procedures will return back to normal?

The Trust is currently working through an operational re-set programme. It is not possible to determine when theatre procedures will return to pre-covid levels, as, in order to protect our patients, we are operating at a much reduced capacity for surgical procedures in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID 19.

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely
Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer