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Request for Information Reference: 06.20.21

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

8 July 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10 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 ophthalmology and Cataract surgery and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Is there a written plan for return to ophthalmology and Cataract surgery at the Hospital? Please share if possible?

A plan is currently being formulated to reintroduce cataract surgery at the Trust and we are looking at options on how we do this at the moment. The Trust commenced some cataract lists on 6/7/20 at BMI Woodland Hospital which will continue for the duration of July while options are identified to reintroduce the service at Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) and Bishop Auckland Hospital (BAH).

2. Are there dates for Planned Return for the Trust to start Cataract Surgery?

Please see response to question 1.

3. Are there any further details on:

a. A phased return to Ophthalmology/Cataract surgery (25%, 50%, 75%, 100%)?

This is still being planned. Please see response to question 1, there is no additional information at this time.

b. A set timeline on the phased return to Ophthalmology/ Cataract surgery?

Please see response to question 1, there is no additional information at this time.

4. How is Cataract surgery being prioritised?

The Trust will be starting with routine local anaesthetic cataract surgery.

a. If there is a grading system please clarify the details?

Cataract patients are triaged according to clinical priority. Please see the attached Clinical guide to surgical prioritisation during the coronavirus pandemic.

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 requested. 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