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Request for Information Reference: 07.20.07

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

3 August 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 6th July 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 tele-radiology and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Did your Trust outsource the reporting of diagnostic images to any teleradiology companies over the past 3 years? If so, for each company, please provide the name of the teleradiology provider along with the information below for the year's fiscal years ending in March 2018, 2019 and 2020?**

Yes the Trust outsources reporting of diagnostic images to Medica Reporting.

- 2. Amount spent on outsourced reporting in daytime and out of hours? If they are not available separately please provide the combined figure? (GBP)**

The Trust's provider has advised us that the disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests by allowing competitors to unfairly infer their pricing structure and, in response, alter the structure or cost of their bid, putting our provider at an unfair commercial disadvantage. Our provider has advised that there is proximity to this risk, given planned timescales for contract reviews both with CDDFT and other NHS Trusts.

The Trust has reviewed this information and applied the public interest test weighing the disclosure of the information requested, in the interest of transparency, against the public interest of maintaining a competitive marketplace. On review, the Trust has concluded that the public interest in maintaining fair market competition (which the FOIA is not intended to subvert) outweighs the interest in transparency and is

therefore exempting this information under Section 43(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Prejudice to Commercial Interests

We can, however, provide an average banded value for the 3 fiscal years in question, incorporating the cost of outsourced reports in daytime and out of hours. It is the Trust's view that this information provides transparency without affecting the marketplace.

The average annual spend on outsourced reporting (aggregating day and night time activity) was between 2.9 and 3.5 million.

3. Number of reports outsourced?

If a breakdown of day-time reporting is not available or utilised by the Trust, please provide a comparable breakdown that is used internally? If no breakdown is available, please provide the information above by Plain radiography, CT, MRI, Nuclear medicine, PET, SPECT and Ultrasound?

Activity 2017/18

CT	26,820
Dayhawk	11,077
Nighthawk	13,558
MRI	7,715
Plain film	107,725
Grand total:	166,895

Activity 2018/19

CT	27,574
Dayhawk	10,819
Nighthawk	16,151
MRI	8,047
Plain film	120,517
Grand total:	183,108

Activity 2019/20

CT	29,640
Dayhawk	8,830
Nighthawk	18,588
MRI	9,855
Plain film	116,560
Grand total:	183,473

Please note that the terms “dayhawk” and “nighthawk” refer to Emergency Reporting services from Medica covering a number of modalities and the Trust is not able to confirm how this is split between the modalities.

4. Please provide details related to the procurement of the teleradiology services including:

a. Identification of the organisation that led the procurement process?

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

b. The start date and length of the contract?

The start date of the contract is 2/7/2018 the length of the contract is 36 months with the option to extend for 1 x 12 months.

c. The name of the outsourcing company providing the teleradiology services (if more than 1 company provided tele radiology services to the Trust, please clarify which services were provided by each)?

Medica Reporting.

d. Please provide the cost and report type of your most expensive single report in this time.

The Trust would exempt the cost information under section 43 of the Act as outlined in the answer to question 2.

In the context of the service, the Trust can confirm that the most expensive report is likely to be an Emergency Full Body Trauma examination. The cost of the exam includes justification discussion with a radiologist (if required), discussion between radiographer and radiologist (if required), verbal discussion of findings with the referring team (if required) and a full written report within a 1-hour turnaround.

e. Please indicate if there have been any concerns with the service you have received.

For the duration of the contract, there have not been any concerns with the service the Trust has received.

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