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Request for Information Reference: 07.20.11

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

5 August 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 7th 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.

Firstly please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond. Your request was in relation to maternity services and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please can you provide YES/NO responses to the following 3 questions? This information is being requested on the impact of Covid-19 on maternity. No Trusts will be identified as a result of these responses, we are simply seeking proportions of Trusts nationally which has experienced these challenges.

1) Have you had any pregnant women who have tested positive for Covid admitted to Intensive Care?

The Trust is unable to answer this section of your request as we do not centrally record this information in any of our information systems. Whilst the information may be available, for each individual patient, in clinical records and systems, it would need a considerable amount of time to complete a manual audit. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine hundreds of sets of patient notes which would take a number of days. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

2) Have you had any asymptomatic pregnant women test positive for Covid?

The Trust is unable to answer this section of your request as we do not centrally record this information in any of our information systems. Whilst the information may be available, for each individual patient, in clinical records and systems, it would need a considerable amount of time to complete manual audit. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine hundreds of sets of patient notes which would take a number of days. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

3) Have you had any babies admitted to NICU who have tested positive for Covid?

The Trust does not have its own Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We have not had any babies admitted to NICU at regional centres who have tested positive for Covid.

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 am sorry that I have not been able to provide all of the information you requested, however I hope that my explanation as to why this is not possible has been satisfactory. 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