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Request for Information Reference: 08.20.18

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

10 September 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 13 August 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 waste disposal services and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. The name of the incumbent clinical and hazardous waste collector/disposer? When their contract began and when it will be out to tender again?

The Contractor is Mitie – the existing contract commenced in December 2018 and a retendering process is due to start in late 2020.

2. The number of tonnes per week or month of each category?

Approximate monthly volumes are as follows:

Clinical waste for alternative treatment:	32 tonnes
Clinical waste for high temperature incineration:	13 tonnes
Offensive waste for EFW:	19 tonnes

3. The price per tonne paid for each category?

The Trust is unable to provide the specific information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive. Section 43 (2) of the Act exempts information from disclosure where the disclosure of information would be likely prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information. The information requested, in conjunction with the information provided in question 2 would allow another supplier to determine the

current costs paid to the Trust's current supplier. This would allow them to alter their pricing structure which would be likely to impact on the imminent tender and potentially impact on other tendering opportunities of the Trust's current supplier. In addition if suppliers were to amend their pricing structure when competing for the tender it could impact on the ability of the Trust to achieve value for money.

The Trust has undertaken a public interest test in relation to the disclosure of information to respond to this question. This test weighs the potential harm of not disclosing the information on the requirement to be transparent against the potential for harm if the information is disclosed. As a result of the test the Trust feels that disclosing the requested information would be likely to harm the commercial interests of the supplier and the Trust and as such is exempting the information under section 43 (2) of the Act.

The Trust is, however, able to state that the costs paid per tonne are in the range of £150 and £1200 though the specific price varies depending on the category of waste.

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