

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: 09.20.04

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

15 September 2020

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 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 referrals / second opinions for an existing course of treatment and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act into the number of patients within your NHS Trust who have requested referrals/ second opinions for an existing course of treatment.**

**I have detailed the request below:**

- 1. How many patients asked their GP or consultant to be referred to another professional for an existing course of treatment in the following time periods?**

Year	Number of patients who asked their GP	Number of patients who asked their Consultant
2020 (year to date)		
2019		
2018		

- 2. In how many cases was the request rejected in the following time periods?**

Year	Number of requests rejected by GPs	Number of requests rejected by Consultants
2020 (year to date)		

2019		
2018		

**3. In how many cases did the treatment recommendation change because of the patient requesting a referral or second opinion in the following periods?**

Year	Number of GP referral requests which resulted in treatment change	Number of Consultant referral requests which resulted in treatment change
2020 (year to date)		
2019		
2018		

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine the sets of patient's notes for the entire community which we serve which is 600,000 patients. 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.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
Freedom of Information Officer