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Request for Information Reference: 04.20.24

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
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Email only

29 September 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 18 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.

Firstly please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond. Your request was in relation to fit test of masks and use respirator and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1) The sex-breakdown of all those who failed fit tests for all available masks at your trust between 1st February 2020 and 30th April 2020.

The information you are requesting is not centrally recorded. During fit testing paper records were utilised which recorded the outcome (pass /fail) of fit tests of staff. The Trust only recorded the passes on the electronic staff record. As such in order to provide the information requested, the paper fit test records would need to be collated and digitised in order to provide a report. The Trust believes that to do this would greatly exceed the time allowed under the Act; therefore; the Trust is 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 and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

2) The sex-breakdown of all those who had to use a powered air purifying respirator at your trust between 1st February 2020 and 30th April 2020.

The Trust did not record this information during this time period and as such it is not possible to provide the information you have requested. The Trust is able to confirm

that there are currently 42 staff that have been allocated this kit however the records do not specify the gender of the staff members.

- 3) **The sex-breakdown of all those who failed their fit test for a FFP3 mask at your trust between 1st February 2020 and 30th April 2020.**
- 4) **The sex breakdown of all those who failed their fit test for a Disposable Healthcare Respirator, FFP3, Valved, 1873V+ at your trust between 1st February 2020 and 30th April 2020.**
- 5) **The sex breakdown of all those who failed their fit test for a Disposable Healthcare Respirator, FFP3, Type IIR, 1863+ at your trust between 1st February 2020 and 30th April 2020.**

The information you are requesting is not centrally recorded. During fit testing paper records were utilised which recorded the outcome (pass /fail) of fit tests of staff. The Trust only recorded the passes on the electronic staff record. As such in order to provide the information requested, the paper fit test records would need to be collated and digitised in order to provide a report. The Trust believes that to do this would greatly exceed the time allowed under the Act; therefore; the Trust is 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 and quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

- 6) **During the period 1st February 2020 to 30th April 2020, has your trust been doing fit tests or just fit checks?**

The Trust has been conducting fit *tests* for all staff using Filtering Face Piece Respirators. Staff would conduct a fit *check* every time they 'don' a respirator.

- 7) **What is the sex breakdown of all those who had to undergo mask fit tests between 1st February 2020 and 30th April 2020**

The Trust is only able to provide a figure for those staff who passed their fit tests during the time period specified; there were 947 females and 202 males. The specific information you are requesting is not centrally recorded. During fit testing paper records were utilised which recorded the fit tests of staff. The Trust only recorded the passes on the electronic staff record. As such in order to provide the information requested, the paper fit test records would need to be collated and digitised in order to provide a report. The Trust believes that to do this would greatly exceed the time allowed under the Act; therefore; the Trust is 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 and quarter 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. 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.cddffoi@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