

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100

Request for Information Reference: 10.20.33

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net
Email only

24 November 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 20 October 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 caesarean sections and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Can you tell me what guidance or material midwives or specialist midwives are given for consideration regarding caesarean sections?

Please see the attached Policy; 'Caesarean Section – Emergency and Elective'.

2. Please breakdown whether staff are advised whether to share this information with a patient or not (it may be left up to them of course)?

If it does not take me over the limit, I would also like to know -

The Policy is available to share with patients.

3. Please confirm whether medical staff (including doctors, nurses and midwives) have targets or measured in any other way in terms of the number of caesareans carried out at the hospitals?

Individuals are not measured but we do closely observe the rates of Lower Segment Caesarean Section (LSCS) and reasons for this through the Trust's maternity dashboard and through the risk management process.

4. If there are targets or performance measurement, what are these please and what have the figures been for the last three years?

The Trust has a performance target for LSCS% on the maternity dashboard of less than 26.0%.

The performance against the LSCS target for the last 3 complete years is:

Year	LSCS %
2017/18	26.2%
2018/19	25.1%
2019/20	28.7%

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