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Request for Information Reference: 10.20.55

Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)  
Email only

16 December 2020

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 27 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 backlog of appointments and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

### **1. How many of the following were cancelled:**

- i) Elective operations**
- ii) Urgent cancer referrals**
- iii) Mammograms**
- iv) Organ transplant operations**
- v) Optical referrals**

**During the following periods:**

- i) 2019-2020**
- ii) 2020-to date**

### **2. How many of the following were delayed:**

- i) Elective operations**
- ii) Urgent cancer referrals**
- iii) Mammograms**
- iv) Organ transplant operations**
- v) Optical referrals**

**For the following time frames:**

- i) Up to one month**
- ii) Up to three months**
- iii) Up to six months**
- iv) Up to a year**
- v) Indefinitely**

**During the following periods:**

**i) 2019-2020**

**ii) 2020-to date**

**Please provide the information in an electronic format or an Excel spreadsheet.**

Please see the attached excel spreadsheet.

Note 1: The Trust is unable to provide the information you have requested as a result of the way in which the Trust's breast clinics are arranged. Patients are usually offered a mammogram as part of their assessment but this is only one part of a range of diagnostics. The Trust would not just cancel the mammogram, the patients' whole clinic appointment would be cancelled which might or might not include a mammogram and it is not possible to separate occasions where a mammogram was cancelled as part of the appointment.

Note 2: 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 hundreds of sets of patient's notes which would take a substantial amount of time. 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**