

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

Request for Information Reference: 12.20.16

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

11 January 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10 December 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 pandemic PPE for staff and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Can you confirm or deny whether, between March 1 2020 and September 30, 2020, the trust issued written communications to clinical staff stating or suggesting that their use of PPE was excessive (in terms of volume or specification of the equipment)?**

The Trust have not issued written communication to clinical staff stating or suggesting that their use of PPE was excessive, clear guidance has been provided at all times about the PPE required in line with National guidance.

- 2. Can you confirm or deny whether, between March 1 2020 and September 2020 the Trust disciplined or warned, formally or informally staff for wearing PPE of a higher grade than you felt they required for their clinical work?**

The Trust do not hold central records of informal discussions. There has been no formal disciplinary action taken for wearing PPE of a higher grade than was felt required for clinical work. The Trust has adopted an approach based on educating and supporting staff in the correct selection use of PPE.

- 3. Can you confirm or deny whether, between March 1 2020 and September 2020 the Trust has disciplined or warned any staff for commenting on social media or in mainstream media regarding PPE shortages or quality or use?**

The Trust does not keep central records of any informal discussions as noted above. There has been no formal disciplinary action or formal warning against staff for

commenting on social media or in mainstream media regarding PPE shortages or quality or use.

4. Can you confirm or deny whether between May 1 2020 and November 30 2020 you have been subject to any investigation from the Health and Safety Executive regarding the provision of PPE for staff or hospital acquired Covid-19 infections in staff or patients?

The Trust has not been subject to any investigation from the Health and Safety Executive regarding the provision of PPE for staff or hospital acquired Covid-19 infections in staff or patients

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