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Darlington
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Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100

Request for Information Reference: 02.21.09

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

8 March 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 5 February 2021 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 translation services and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. The spending per financial year on translation services (written) and interpreting services (oral) for your organisation over each of the following 5 financial years: 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, as well as the languages involved? Please do not include data regarding the spending on services for the deaf and blind (such as sign language interpreting or Braille).**

Financial year	Total
2015/16	£118,997.00
2016/17	£133,866.00
2017/18	£135,877.00
2018/19	£147,966.00
2019/20	£124,518.00

Please note, this is the total interpreting services spend per year. The Trust is unable to split by language or oral/ written. In order to provide a breakdown of information for these years each individual invoice would need to be reviewed for the time period and collated. This would take a substantial amount of time and as such 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 hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25.00 per hour.

The Trust can provide the top ten most popular languages for the past two financial years:

2019/20:

Trust language breakdown
Polish
Arabic
BSL
Mandarin
Kurdish
Romanian
Bengali
Farsi
Albanian
Punjabi

2018/19:

Trust language breakdown
Polish
Arabic
British Sign Language
Mandarin
Cantonese
Kurdish
Bengali
Romanian
Albanian
Farsi

2. The total budget for your organisation for each of the 5 financial years the information above is provided on, for all expenses not just for translation and interpreting services, i.e. to include all expenses such as salaries, utilities, equipment, consumables etc., with only the total figure given, no breakdown necessary?

Answer: Under the terms of the Act, a request for information can be refused where one or more exemptions listed in the Act apply. In this case the Trust is claiming an exemption under Section 21 of the Act, namely the information is otherwise accessible from our website. The information requested is covered in the Trust's Annual Reports and accounts which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.cddft.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/annual-reports/annual-report-documents.aspx>

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.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