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Request for Information Reference: 02.21.56

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700

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

Email only

22 March 2021

## Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 24 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.

Your request was in relation to Maternity unit closures and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**1. On how many occasions has your maternity unit been closed to new admissions in each year of 2018, 2019 and 2020? Please supply figures for the calendar rather than financial year?**

**2. For each closure, please state the duration of and the reason for the closure?**

Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet, Attachment 1 and note the following:

- The Trust has two maternity units which are spread across the Darlington and Durham sites. Should a unit need to be closed to admissions, the Trust would manage the patient pathway internally and admit them to another unit within the Trust. The Trust would only divert a patient to another Trust unit if it was clinically appropriate to do so.
- Information listed as 'Not recorded' on the spreadsheet was unable to be recorded at the time of the closure due to extreme pressures on service therefore the exact duration or reason of the Ward closure cannot be provided in all instances.

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**