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Request for Information Reference: 03.21.31

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Email only

20 April 2021

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 16 March 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 Ophthalmology appointments and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**For the following questions, please supply the data broken down by month, for the calendar years 2019, 2020, and 2021:**

#### 1. Number of ophthalmology outpatient attendances, cancellations and did not attends?

Activity	Month	Attended	DNA	Hospital Cancellations
New	2019-01	885	51	2178
New	2019-02	739	44	1937
New	2019-03	744	47	1944
New	2019-04	909	58	1817
New	2019-05	918	58	2118
New	2019-06	924	72	1846
New	2019-07	960	61	1900
New	2019-08	723	46	1955
New	2019-09	925	70	1843
New	2019-10	1036	78	2155
New	2019-11	973	66	2011
New	2019-12	861	64	1783
New	2020-01	974	76	2049
New	2020-02	802	42	2243
New	2020-03	618	51	1705
New	2020-04	220	19	557
New	2020-05	384	20	463
New	2020-06	441	21	564

Activity	Month	Attended	DNA	Hospital Cancellations
Follow Up	2019-01	2260	194	7431
Follow Up	2019-02	1989	188	6558
Follow Up	2019-03	2301	167	6875
Follow Up	2019-04	2202	160	6314
Follow Up	2019-05	2245	151	7369
Follow Up	2019-06	2213	168	5413
Follow Up	2019-07	2347	141	6802
Follow Up	2019-08	2194	150	5837
Follow Up	2019-09	2424	165	5752
Follow Up	2019-10	2622	196	6899
Follow Up	2019-11	2438	172	6082
Follow Up	2019-12	2138	153	5851
Follow Up	2020-01	2418	173	6299
Follow Up	2020-02	2079	160	6849
Follow Up	2020-03	1637	139	4602
Follow Up	2020-04	534	52	2914
Follow Up	2020-05	937	70	1778
Follow Up	2020-06	1221	84	3130

Activity	Month	Attended	DNA	Hospital Cancellations
New	2020-07	457	18	1093
New	2020-08	537	26	1541
New	2020-09	678	43	1970
New	2020-10	705	63	2640
New	2020-11	669	45	2532
New	2020-12	638	60	2516
New	2021-01	564	50	2822
New	2021-02	634	63	2853
New	2021-03	897	62	3994

Activity	Month	Attended	DNA	Hospital Cancellations
Follow Up	2020-07	1157	85	2780
Follow Up	2020-08	1367	97	3144
Follow Up	2020-09	1646	161	4001
Follow Up	2020-10	1839	193	4159
Follow Up	2020-11	1740	186	3388
Follow Up	2020-12	1561	142	3359
Follow Up	2021-01	1556	171	3416
Follow Up	2021-02	1487	150	3135
Follow Up	2021-03	1742	139	3849

## 2. The number of referrals made for an ophthalmology specialist appointment?

Month	GP Referral	Non GP Referral	Total Referrals
2019-01	457	430	887
2019-02	396	441	837
2019-03	446	564	1010
2019-04	423	748	1171
2019-05	419	556	975
2019-06	436	472	908
2019-07	475	473	948
2019-08	418	394	812
2019-09	468	472	940
2019-10	473	621	1094
2019-11	406	483	889
2019-12	374	426	800
2020-01	419	471	890
2020-02	416	436	852
2020-03	273	415	688
2020-04	35	216	251
2020-05	76	307	383
2020-06	81	330	411
2020-07	110	439	549
2020-08	158	490	648
2020-09	187	521	708
2020-10	210	563	773
2020-11	177	605	782
2020-12	188	453	641
2021-01	193	490	683
2021-02	226	622	848
2021-03	292	496	788

## 3. The number of patients waiting 18 weeks or longer for a referral for an ophthalmology specialist appointment?

Type	Month	Count
Wait >126 days	2019-01	9
Wait >126 days	2019-02	2

Wait >126 days	2019-03	4
Wait >126 days	2019-04	21
Wait >126 days	2019-05	19
Wait >126 days	2019-06	23
Wait >126 days	2019-07	14
Wait >126 days	2019-08	13
Wait >126 days	2019-09	36
Wait >126 days	2019-10	53
Wait >126 days	2019-11	21
Wait >126 days	2019-12	15
Wait >126 days	2020-01	24
Wait >126 days	2020-02	16
Wait >126 days	2020-03	10
Wait >126 days	2020-04	2
Wait >126 days	2020-05	5
Wait >126 days	2020-06	14
Wait >126 days	2020-07	27
Wait >126 days	2020-08	78
Wait >126 days	2020-09	124
Wait >126 days	2020-10	91
Wait >126 days	2020-11	66
Wait >126 days	2020-12	47
Wait >126 days	2021-01	57
Wait >126 days	2021-02	44
Wait >126 days	2021-03	84

**4. The average waiting time in weeks from referral to treatment for ophthalmology patients?**

Month	Average wait Weeks
2019-01	10.2
2019-02	9.4
2019-03	9.3
2019-05	9.6
2019-06	9.6
2019-07	9.9
2019-08	10.0
2019-09	10.0
2019-10	9.6
2019-11	9.2
2019-12	9.3
2020-01	9.6
2020-03	11.1
2020-04	14.7
2020-05	17.6
2020-06	20.1
2020-07	22.2
2020-08	22.2
2020-09	22.4

Month	Average wait Weeks
2020-10	20.8
2020-11	20.6
2020-12	20.3
2021-01	19.3
2021-02	18.5

### 5. The number of cancelled cataract surgery appointments?

Due to the way in which Cataract surgery and/or appointments are recorded, in order to answer this question it would require staff to manually cross reference theatre lists, cancellation lists and thousands of sets of patient notes of 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.

### 6. The number of regular "check-up" appointments that have been cancelled?

Activity	Month	Hospital Cancellations
Follow Up	2019-01	7431
Follow Up	2019-02	6558
Follow Up	2019-03	6875
Follow Up	2019-04	6314
Follow Up	2019-05	7369
Follow Up	2019-06	5413
Follow Up	2019-07	6802
Follow Up	2019-08	5837
Follow Up	2019-09	5752
Follow Up	2019-10	6899
Follow Up	2019-11	6082
Follow Up	2019-12	5851
Follow Up	2020-01	6299
Follow Up	2020-02	6849
Follow Up	2020-03	4602
Follow Up	2020-04	2914
Follow Up	2020-05	1778
Follow Up	2020-06	3130
Follow Up	2020-07	2780
Follow Up	2020-08	3144
Follow Up	2020-09	4001
Follow Up	2020-10	4159
Follow Up	2020-11	3388
Follow Up	2020-12	3359
Follow Up	2021-01	3416
Follow Up	2021-02	3135
Follow Up	2021-03	3849

**7. The number of Age-related Macular Degeneration treatment appointments that have been cancelled?**

Month	New	Follow Up	Total
2019-01		40	40
2019-02		58	58
2019-03	1	68	69
2019-04		47	47
2019-05	1	70	71
2019-06	1	59	60
2019-07		65	65
2019-08		66	66
2019-09	1	60	61
2019-10		72	72
2019-11	2	56	58
2019-12		72	72
2020-01		73	73
2020-02	2	62	64
2020-03		36	36
2020-04		35	35
2020-05		40	40
2020-06		45	45
2020-07		46	46
2020-08	1	84	85
2020-09	1	74	75
2020-10	1	38	39
2020-11		37	37
2020-12	3	16	19
2021-01		28	28
2021-02		56	56
2021-03	1	58	59

**8. The number of patients who have had a virtual appointment, either by phone, video conferencing or any other means?**

Month	New	Follow Up	Total
2019-01	0	0	0
2019-02	0	0	0
2019-03	0	0	0
2019-04	0	0	0
2019-05	0	0	0
2019-06	0	0	0
2019-07	0	0	0
2019-08	0	0	0
2019-09	0	0	0
2019-10	0	0	0
2019-11	0	0	0
2019-12	0	0	0
2020-01	0	0	0

Month	New	Follow Up	Total
2020-02	0	0	0
2020-03	0	0	0
2020-04	8	8	16
2020-05	11	35	46
2020-06	20	78	98
2020-07	8	57	65
2020-08	15	114	129
2020-09	20	209	229
2020-10	25	292	317
2020-11	56	348	404
2020-12	26	205	231
2021-01	28	199	227
2021-02	38	224	262
2021-03	41	243	284

**9. If you have categorised patients by risk of vision loss, can you please break down the answers to questions 1-8 by these categories?**

Patients are not categorised by risk of vision loss.

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](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**