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

Request for Information Reference: 03.21.59

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

29 April 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 31 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 assaults and hate crime and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. The name of your NHS Trust

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

2. The total number of physical assaults against NHS staff from members of the public and patients that occurred during the following financial year:

a. April 2020 - March 2021: 202

b. April 2019 - March 2020: 239

Please note that in answering questions 3 and 4, we have used the following definition of 'hate crime' from the Crown Prosecution Service <https://www.cps.gov.uk/crime-info/hate-crime>:

'The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity.'

These aspects of a person's identity are known as 'protected characteristics'. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying, as well as damage to property.'

3. The total number of verbal assaults (including hate crime and all other verbal attacks) against NHS staff from members of the public and patients that occurred during the following financial year:

a. April 2020 - March 2021: 261

b. April 2019 - March 2020: 395

4. How many reports of hate crime against NHS staff from members of the public and patients occurred during the following financial year:

a. April 2020 - March 2021: 9

b. April 2019 - March 2020: 23

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. 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