

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

Request for Information Reference: 04.21.49

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

25 May 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 26 April 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 external legal costs and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

A) Have you instructed external lawyers for advice about how your hospital has performed since March 2020? (If possible, please restrict this advice to Covid related matters and if you are able, describe the issue that the advice was sought. for example death of patient or guidance over treatment of patients with disabilities).

B) Have you paid for an "expert independent external opinion" since March 2020? (if you are able, please say the issue that this related to, for example, care of people with disabilities during Covid19).

There were no instances in the time period specified where the Trust has either instructed external lawyers to obtain legal advice or paid for an expert independent external opinion.

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