

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

Request for Information Reference: 05.21.02

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

7 June 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 4 May 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 breast cancer patients and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1). How many breast cancer patients elected to have their treatment and care transferred to another hospital trust from 2018-2020?**
- 2). How many breast cancer patients did not receive chemotherapy as part of their treatment in the same timescale as above?**

The Trust does not centrally record this information and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine hundreds of sets of patient's notes. 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.

- 3). How many breast cancer patients have had treatment that has lasted for longer than 6 months?**

On 3 June 2021 the Trust contacted you to seek clarification relating to question 3 with respect of the date range of the patient data. You responded on the same day that the data set in question was for 2018-2029.

During the time period specified there were 707 unique ChemoCare patients who received at least one cycle of treatment for breast cancer at County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) hospitals. Of these 365 had treatment lasting 6 months or more within the same period.

4). How many breast cancer patients who received chemotherapy died within 5 years of treatment?

On 6 May 2021 the Trust contacted you for clarification on question 4 the Trust sought clarification on whether or not you would like death within 5 years of chemotherapy for any cause, as patients may not have died of breast cancer related conditions. You confirmed on the same day that you would like to know how many patients died of any cause within 5 years.

On 3 June 2021 the Trust sought further clarification for question 4 with respect of the 5 year period in your criteria and when this commenced. You responded on the same day to clarify that the timescale was 5 years from the point of diagnosis from 2018-2020.

There were 152 patients who died within the specified time frame and of these 147 died within 1,825 days of the most recent decision to treat (DTT) date.

This was calculated by determining which patients died within the time frame specified and then comparing the DTT date to the date of the last cycle of chemotherapy received to determine if they died before or after 1,825 days from the DTT. Please note, as the ChemoCare system allows for multiple episodes of care, more than one DTT date may be present for a patient for the same diagnosis; the Trust took the earliest DTT for patients where more than one decision to treat date existed, if the last date were used the number who died within 1,825 days of their last DTT is 149.

5. Could I please have a copy of the Trust's complaints procedure?

Please see Attachment 1, a copy of the Trust's Complains and Concerns Policy.

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