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Request for Information Reference: 05.21.49

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

Email only

18 June 2021

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 20 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 suicides and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**1. The number of patients that presented to Accident & Emergency/ the Emergency Department (A&E) due to feeling suicidal from 01/01/16 to 31/12/20. Data given separately for each calendar year 2016-2020?**

**2. The number of patients from point 1 who were discharged home without being seen by psychiatry, and the number of patients from point 1 who were discharged home without being referred to another service? Data given separately for each calendar year 2016-2020?**

**3. The number of patients from point 1 who committed suicide within 28 days of being discharged from A&E, for each year since 2016. Data given separately for each calendar year 2016-2020?**

Please see the table below and note the following:

- Data is from October 2017 onwards. This is due to the introduction of Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (SNOMED) codes into the A&E data, which is used to extract the suicide/ suicidal thoughts up to May 2019.
- With regards to question 2 the Trust does not centrally record whether or not the patient has been seen by psychiatry in the department and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested as a member of staff would need to manually examine a substantial amount of patient notes to determine what happened during their visit, who they saw etc. 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. However, the Trust can provide the number of patients who were discharged without being admitted to the Trust.

	Question 1	Question 2
Year	A&E Attends with suicidal thoughts	Of those in the response to Question 1, patients discharged home
2017 Oct-Dec	189	148
2018 Jan-Dec	721	608
2019 Jan-May	375	321

The Trust is unable to answer to Question 3 as the Trust does not have access to records of the cause of deaths for patients who have died outside of our hospitals.

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**