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Request for Information Reference: 06.21.26

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Email only

8 July 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10 June 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 AI computer programmes and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Are any of the Trust's hospitals are doing research into AI computer programmes which will eventually be able to give treatment programmes to people who come to the Trust for ordinary treatment to make them better, especially in the Cardiology Departments?**
 - a. If so, how long has this research been going on in your hospitals, and did any patients have their health information used without specific permission?**
 - b. If not, then are there any plans for this type of research to take place in your Trust's hospitals and when?**

- 2. Is there a researcher, a doctor, who is also involved in AI research in any of your Trust's hospitals?**
 - a. If so, is this in the Cardiology Department?**
 - b. If not, the Cardiology Department, but some other department, and which one(s)?**

The Trust is currently only involved in one AI-based project. The project is based in radiology and orthopaedics but is not looking at treatment programmes; the focus is on the assessment of images. The project is being run with Durham University with staff from the Trust, though the project is 'owned' by Durham University. There are two medical staff involved in project from the Trust.

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

Freedom of Information Officer