

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 08.21.11

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

27th August 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10th August 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 NHS preparedness for winter and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Could you please answer the questions below and when responding provide plans and as much detail as possible where required to demonstrate preparedness for autumn / winter 2021/22 - 1st October 2021 to 28th Feb 2022.

1. Has the trust increased the total General and Acute bed capacity? Please provide the total number of available General and Acute beds across the trust. This must include all physical beds than can be open, funded by commissioners and occupied for admitting elective and non-elective patients across all sites within the trust.

a) as at March 2020

There were 617 beds as at March 2020 in the Trust.

b) as at July 2021

There were 617 beds as at July 2021 in the Trust.

c) How many beds can be funded and open between 1st October 2021 and 28th Feb 2022 to cope with any surges in non-elective patients?

There will be 33 winter funded beds which are currently being recruited to.

2. Has the trust increased the total ICU bed capacity? Please provide the total number of available ICU beds across the trust. This must include all physical ICU beds that can be open, funded by commissioners and occupied for admitting patients across all sites within the trust.

a) as at March 2020

There were 21 ICU beds as at March 2020

b) as at July 2021

There were 21 ICU beds as at July 2021

c) How many additional beds can be funded and open between 1st October 2021 and 28th Feb 2022 to cope with surges in non-elective patients?

The Trust can surge its ICU capacity to 40, however these are not funded or staffed and would be only opened as per the Trust's and regional escalation plan for ICU.

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

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator