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Request for Information Reference: 10.21.22

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Email only

27 October 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 14th October 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 mechanical restraint and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Does the NHS Trust authorise the use of any kind of mechanical restraint?

The Trust does not authorise the use of any form of mechanical restraint nor condone its use. There is one very limited exception to this with respect to the use of Posey Mitts as outlined in our response to Question 4 below.

- 2. What types of Mechanical Restraint is authorised? e.g. Handcuffs; Soft Cuffs; Velcro Leg restraints; Emergency Response Belts (ERB). Spit hoods?**
- 3. Is the necessary training to apply the authorised form of mechanical restraint linked to a nationally recognised training qualification?**

Not applicable – please see the response to Question 1.

4. Does the NHS Trust authorise the use of Posey Mitts, if a risk assessment deems them to be a reasonable and proportionate response?

Please see the following extract from the Safe Use of Restraint Policy, which sets out the very rare circumstances in which the use of Posey Mitts is permissible within the Trust:

‘The only form of mechanical restraint approved by the board for use in the organisation are mitts used on both critical care and acute stroke ward **only**. The

indication for use are patients assessed to be at risk of life saving treatments by removing lines and/or line pulling which may result in prevention of monitoring vital signs. All other factors must be excluded before these devices are used to ensure that this is the least restrictive method.'

5. Total number of recorded incidents of mechanical restraint usage (of any type) if in use for the period September 2020 -September 2021

There was a single reported incident of the use of mechanical restraint by a contracted security guard. This was unauthorised, in keeping with the Trust's policy as outlined in response to Question 1, and therefore fully investigated and remedial action taken.

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