

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: 01.22.52

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

Email only

31st January 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 27th January 2022 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 cleaning areas between patients and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Could you clarify what is meant by ‘there is ample time allowed to ensure that delays to clinics are avoided’

The cleaning process takes between 2-3 minutes depending on level of contact with surfaces a patient has had. The cleaning is carried out by the nurse whilst the clinician completes the administrative work between patients.

2. Does this mean that staff are given extra time for cleaning or are they meant to do this on top of the usual appointment duties, with the same amount of time they had between patients that they had pre-covid?

Prior to the Covid policy, staff were always required to clean between patients. This includes stripping the protective paper from the couch and cleaning surfaces. Additional high-risk clinic rooms have been added with staff allocated to carry out the necessary cleaning e.g. ENT nasedoscopy clinics.

Due to social distancing, clinic templates have been reduced to accommodate the requirements and therefore time between patients is longer. Had there been any difficulty achieving the necessary down time between patients to enable the relevant Covid safety measure, clinic numbers would have been reduced to

accommodate however the increased use of telephone appointments has meant that such a move has not been necessary.

3. How does the Trust oversee the cleaning to keep it consistent throughout all departments?

This is overseen by the matron with responsibility for outpatients and by the clinic sisters. In addition, any policy changes are relayed daily by the Sisters, infection control link nurses, and as by contractual obligations this is everyone's responsibility.

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