

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: 03.22.41

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

Email only

13th April 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 17th March 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 employees with post-Covid syndrome and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please note that in order to answer this request the Trust has used data relating to Trust staff only, this does not include staff from the wholly owned subsidiary company Synchronicity Care Limited (SCL) who provides the facilities staff such as domestics and porters.

1. How many employees at your trust have an ongoing absence from work owing to illness from COVID-19 that has been ongoing for 12 weeks or more as of 11 March 2022?

22

2. How many employees at your trust have had an absence from work owing to illness from COVID-19 that lasted for 12 weeks or more between 30 January 2020 and 11 March 2022?

80

3. How many RIDDOR reports has your trust submitted to HSE since 30 January 2020 relating to:

a. accidents or incidents at work which have, or could have, led to the release or escape of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) (dangerous occurrences)?

The Trust had no accidents or incidents at work which have, or could have, led to the release or escape of coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) (dangerous occurrences since 30th January 2020).

b. A person at work (a worker) having been diagnosed as having COVID-19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus (a case of disease)?

The Trust had 43 staff members at work diagnosed as having COVID-19 attributed to an occupational exposure to coronavirus since 30th January 2020. A robust follow-up process was in place for each case reported, including visits to the relevant areas by the specialist health and safety team to agree corrective and preventive actions.

c. The death of a worker as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus (a work-related death due to exposure to a biological agent)?

The Trust made one RIDDOR report regarding the death of one member of staff as a result of occupational exposure to coronavirus. A full internal investigation was inconclusive as to whether exposure was actually – or probably – work-related; however, the report was made to acknowledge that work-related exposure was a genuine possibility and corrective and preventive actions implemented.

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