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Request for Information Reference: 05.22.26

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Email only

18th May 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 13th May 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 adult level three critical care beds and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. How many Adult Level three Critical Care beds do you currently have with an invasive ventilator?

The Trust has 6 funded level 3 beds in University Hospital North Durham, however we are a flexible unit with combined Level 2 beds therefore our number can go up to 8 level 3.

For Darlington Memorial Hospital the Trust has 5 funded level 3 beds but again this is a flexible unit having combined level 2 beds so we could go up to 8 level 3 beds.

The Trust has 9 ventilators per site, plus surge capacity offsite.

2. How many of these are currently staffed and therefore available for use (either vacant or occupied)?

All beds in ITU within the Trust are currently staffed (this may vary day by day depending on our case mix and sickness).

- 3. When considering relevant guidelines concerning these beds, how many have Carbon Dioxide (CO2) monitoring available for invasively ventilated patients?**

All beds on both sites have CO2 monitoring level 3 and level 2 (21 funded beds within the Trust).

- 4. Thinking about the new (January 2022) NICE Guidelines concerning inhaled sedation, how many of your Level three beds have inhaled anaesthetic gas monitoring available?**

The Trust would not use inhaled gas on ITU as we do not have appropriate extract. In the cases where this is required short term for induction, the patient would be taken to theatre as all the anaesthetic machines have gas monitoring in 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

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator