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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625  
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Request for Information Reference: 05.22.07

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

Email only

9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Further to our previous response in which we extended our timeframe, in accordance with the FOIA, in order to fully consider the public interest test in respect of question 4, I am now able to provide an updated response letter.

1. **A list of your current Projects and Programmes (for example IT Projects)?**
2. **Associated timelines for those Project and Programmes?**

Project	Timescale
Electronic Patient Record	October 2022
Same Day Emergency Care	October 2022
Endoscopy Project	November 2022
Deliver in Full Agreed Business Case on Pathology Service Redesign	March 2022
Transfer of Elective Orthopaedic Activity to Bishop Auckland	To be confirmed
Long Covid Clinic Project	2022/23
Wellbeing for the Timebeing Project	April 2023
Shotley Bridge (NHP) Project	February 2025
Device Replacement 2021/22	Original target completion date March 2022
LAN Refresh-Core/Edge Network Infrastructure	To be confirmed
Data Management (Backup Infrastructure)	Original target completion date March 2022
Cyber Security Refresh	Original target completion

Project	Timescale
	date March 2022
Device Replacement 22/23	Original target completion date March 2022
Rapid Covid Testing	Original target completion date March 2022
LiMS	To be confirmed
Perfect Ward (Tendable Ward)	Original target completion date March 2022
Maternity UTF	Original target completion date March 2022
Anaesthetic Machines Replacement	Original target completion date March 2022, awaiting delivery
Ureteroscope Replacement	Original target completion date March 2022, awaiting delivery
Lung Function Machine Replacement	Original target completion date March 2022, awaiting delivery
C-Arm	Original target completion date March 2022
Water Tanks Replacement	October 2022
De Carbonisation	July 2022
Vascular Theatre Conversion	July 2022
Centralised Endoscopy Decontamination Unit	August 2022
Pathology Cold Room	May 2022
Demolition of the Estates Office and Removal of the Fuel Tanks	October 2022
UHND Chemotherapy	December 2022
Demolition of the East Wing and Procurement Building at UHND	August 2022
Radiology Equipment Procurement Programme (REPP)	October 2032

### 3. Your current spend on Agency, temporary or Contingent Labour?

In the financial year 2021-22 the Trust's spend on bank and agency staff was £40.792m. Please note the Trust cannot identify ledger costs for staff on temporary fixed contracts.

### 4. Copies of business Cases approved in the past 3 Months?

Further to our extension to consider the public interest test we are now able to provide an answer to this question.

We have answered your request as at the date of your request. Business cases are approved by our Directors Investment Scrutiny Committee (potentially with

some subsequent refinement agreed by Executive Directors) or – if above the Committee’s delegated limit – by the Board. There were three full business cases that progressed to full approval in the period 1st February 2022 to 30th April 2022:

- Replacement of Field Analysers
- Critical Care Module for our forthcoming EPR system
- International Nurse Recruitment

Please note that the following redactions have been made:

- Redacted1 – the information redacted are direct telephone numbers for staff members. This information would not be disclosed through this process and all staff can be contacted by the main hospital switchboard: 01325 380100
- Redacted2 – We are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

The information relates to the costs of the critical care module further to negotiations with the supplier as part of a larger deal, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice our supplier’s commercial interests, as it would provide alternative bidders with an understanding of their costs (which would not be reciprocated) with respect to similar contracts in the NHS, thereby undermining their ability to tender, or negotiate, on fair and equal terms, for such contracts. The Trust considers that there is potential for such harm to arise with reasonable proximity and, therefore, that the exemption under Section 43(2) of the Act is engaged.

The Trust acknowledges the public interest in publication of the information; specifically the interest in transparency with respect to expenditure on services, as a means of assisting the taxpayer in evaluating their value for money. However, there is a competing public interest in preserving fair market competition and the ability of public authorities to obtain value for money when sourcing services. In previous rulings the Information Commissioner has made clear that the Freedom of Information Act is not intended to distort fair market competition. In this case, the Trust therefore considers that the public interest in preserving fair competition outweighs the general public interest in transparency and is therefore applying the exemption under Section 43(2).

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

**Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator**