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Request for Information Reference: 06.22.04

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Email only

20th June 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 1st June 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 single-sex bay placement and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. How are patients allocated to single-sex bays?**
- 2. What is the Trust's approach for allocating trans people to single-sex bays?**

The Trust allocates people to single-sex bays in line with our Delivering Same Sex Accommodation Policy. The guidance is as follows:

6.4 Delivering same sex accommodation for Trans people and gender variant children:

Transgender or Trans is a broad term referring to anyone whose personal experiences of gender extends beyond the typical experiences of their assigned sex at birth. It includes those who identify as non-binary.

If presenting gender is not obvious, the patient should be informed that same-sex accommodation is available and they should be supported to decide where they would be most comfortably accommodated.

Staff aim to comply with requests, however, accommodation is dependent on capacity. Side rooms can be used, but patients whose clinical needs dictate

isolation will have priority. Despite this, staff will endeavour to meet the needs of all patients' privacy and dignity requirements.

6.4.1 General key points are that:

Trans people should be accommodated according to their presentation (the way they dress, and the name and pronouns that they currently use).

- This may not always be in accord with the physical sex appearance of the chest or genitalia.
- It does not depend on their having a gender recognition certificate (GRC) or legal name change.
- It applies to toilet and bathing facilities.
- Views of the family members may not accord with the Trans persons wishes, in which case, the Trans person's view take priority.

Those who have undergone transition should be accommodated according to their gender presentation. Different genital or breast sex appearance is not a bar to this, since sufficient privacy can be provided with the use of curtains or by accommodation in a single side room.

Gender variant children and young people must be accorded with the same respect for the self-defined gender as are Tran's adults, regardless of their genital sex.

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