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Request for Information Reference: 09.22.47

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Email only

19th October 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 26th September 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 19 and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

The Trust has answered your questions below, but please note:

The Trust use an incident reporting system whereby all incidents of a racial nature are recorded as incidents no matter the clinical condition of the instigator using a general racial abuse heading.

A large number of the racial abuse incidents listed below have been conducted by patients who do not know what they had done was wrong due to a medical illness and / or confused state of mind and therefore lack capacity in some form often through living with dementia, having delirium, living with a severe learning disability, suffer from mental health issues or other general incapacity issues.

All incidents are investigated accordingly no matter the mental capacity of the instigator with outcomes being determined when all relevant information has been reviewed. If it is deemed in the best interests' additional actions will be taken.

Where the police have detained / arrested an individual the Trust are not formally made aware of the outcome as this information will be solely supplied to the named victim/s.

Should staff wish to pursue prosecution of offenders related to any incident the Trust will support them throughout the whole process including any police interaction, court appearances and subsequent debriefing.

All staff are supported by local management no matter what action is taken related to any racial abuse incident and additionally are signposted to other services such as counselling or occupational health should the need arise.

- 1. How many incidents of racial abuse BY PATIENTS towards NHS staff (physical, verbal or written), were reported by NHS staff between 01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019?**

9

- 1.1 How many of these reported incidents were followed up with any action being taken against the perpetrator?**

7

- 1.2 If action was taken against any of the perpetrators, how many incidents were reported to the police?**

1

- 2. How many incidents of racial abuse BY PATIENTS towards NHS staff (physical, verbal or written), were reported by NHS staff between 01.01.2020 – 31.12.2020?**

5

- 2.1 How many of these reported incidents were followed up with any action being taken against the perpetrator?**

4

- 2.2 If action was taken against any of the perpetrators, how many incidents were reported to the police?**

2

- 3. How many incidents of racial abuse BY PATIENTS towards NHS staff (physical, verbal or written), were reported by NHS staff between 01.01.2021 – 31.12.2021?**

12

3.1 How many of these reported incidents were followed up with any action being taken against the perpetrator?

11

3.2 If action was taken against any of the perpetrators, how many incidents were reported to the police?

5

4. How many incidents of racial abuse BY PATIENTS towards NHS staff (physical, verbal or written), were reported by NHS staff between 01.01.2022 – current date?

18

4.1 How many of these reported incidents were followed up with any action being taken against the perpetrator?

18

4.2 If action was taken against any of the perpetrators, how many incidents were reported to the police?

3

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