

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: 10.22.34

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

Email only

20th October 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 19th October 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 Mental Health Long Waits and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. The total number of mental health patients waiting more than 12 hours for an inpatient bed at your trust during each of the financial years from 2016/17 to 2021/22. Please also provide financial year-to-date figures (up to October 19, 2022) for 2022-23. Please provide these numbers separated for patients aged 0-17 and those aged 18+.**

The Trust does not centrally record mental health patients separately and estimates that it would take a significant amount of time to gather the information requested. Therefore, we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

- 2. Please provide a breakdown detailing the length of wait for each of these patients. This data may be presented however most easily accessible to the trust – for example exact time per individual patient or in groupings/bandings of hours. Please provide these numbers separated for patients aged 0-17 and those aged 18+.**
- 3. Does your trust have an emergency mental health liaison team/liaison psychiatry team?**

4. **If yes, please provide a breakdown of staff employed in these roles by role, band and whether they are full-time equivalent or other.**
5. **If yes, please provide details as regards the hours the team are available to patients and typical staffing levels during those hours.**

The Trust does not provide mental health services. A mental health liaison team, employed by Tees Esk & Wear Valley, provide a service to patients in our hospitals. Tees Esk & Wear Valley should be the first point of contact for this information. If you wish to contact Tees Esk & Wear Valley Foundation Trust, we would advise, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), that you contact that organisation via the following address:

Trust Secretary's Department
West Park Hospital
Edward Pease Way
Darlington
DL2 2TS

Email: tewv.foi@nhs.net

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