

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: 10.22.42

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700  
Email: [cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net](mailto:cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net)

Email only

28<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 24<sup>th</sup> 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 A&E waiting times and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. For each of the financial years from 2016-17 to 2021-22 and for 2022-23 to the latest completed month (likely end of October 2022), please outline how many mental health patients\* have had waits in emergency departments, from decision to admit to admission, discharge, or transfer of a) between 12 and 24 hours b) 24 to 48 hours c) 48 to 72 hours d) 72 hours or more?**
- 2. For each financial year, please provide the length of wait for all occurrences of individual waits lasting 72 hours or more.**

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. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine every patient's record who attended A&E in the timeframe stipulated to determine their cause for attending. 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.

- 3. Please provide a list of occasions (with patient identifying details redacted) where the trust has contacted a partnering mental health trust, CCG, ICS, NHS England or other statutory body to notify that there were no mental**

health beds available within a) the ICS area b) the NHS region c) England, Scotland or Wales.

4. As per the national Core 24 target, does your trust have an emergency mental health liaison team/liason psychiatry team available to patients attending emergency departments?\*
5. If yes, please provide a breakdown of staff employed in these roles by role, band and whether they are full-time equivalent or other.\*\*
6. If yes, please provide details as regards the hours the team are available to patients and typical staffing levels during those hours.\*\*

\*ICD codes: F01-99

\*\*If these staff are employed/managed by another organisation please provide any details available to the trust.

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](mailto: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](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**