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Request for Information Reference: 11.22.59

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Email only

7<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Mr/Ms

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 24<sup>th</sup> November 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 Episodes of Sun Burn in A&E and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions.

Please note that the Trust has withheld the exact date that patients attended A&E with a diagnosis of sunburn and/or effects of heat and light, as it believes that to disclose this information would breach one of the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act 2018 (which supplements the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect in May 2018) in that it would render it possible to identify the individuals. We do not believe that it would be fair to the individuals for their identities to be made public. We therefore believe that the exemption contained within section 40 of the Act is engaged.

The Trust has assessed the risk that the identities of the individual patients could be inferred, and judges that possibility to be real. It has therefore taken the decision to withhold this information under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Trust is relying, in part, on the absolute exemption available under Section 40(3) (a) (i), where information would be shared in contravention of the principles in the Data Protection Act and the qualified exemption in Section (40) (3) (a) (ii), where the numbers published could allow the identify of individual patients to be inferred causing damage or distress to themselves or their families. The Trust has weighed the public interest in preventing that distress with the public interest in transparency and has concluded that the former interest carries greater weight, in particular because it is not necessary to disclose specific dates that patients attended A&E with

sunburn and/or effects of heat and light to understand how many patients presented to A&E with the issue over the time period requested.

The Trust has however provided the data broken down by month.

- 1. The number of A&E attendances and/or admission episodes between 1 June 2022 and 31 August 2022 with a diagnosis of sunburn and/or effects of heat and light. For each instance recorded please specify the diagnosis, the date of the episode and age of the patient.**

Admission date	Age on admission	Diagnosis
June	3	Heatstroke and sunstroke
June	14	Heatstroke and sunstroke
June	16	Heatstroke and sunstroke
June	55	Sunburn unspecified
June	24	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	18	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	68	Sunburn unspecified
July	25	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	29	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	22	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	27	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	8	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	4	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	16	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	70	Sunburn unspecified
July	34	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	34	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	48	Heatstroke and sunstroke
August	84	Heatstroke and sunstroke
August	84	Heatstroke and sunstroke
August	14	Heatstroke and sunstroke
August	55	Sunburn unspecified

- 2. The number of A&E attendances and/or admission episodes between 1 June 2021 and 31 August 2021 with a diagnosis of sunburn and/or effects of heat and light. For each instance recorded please specify the diagnosis, the date of the episode and age of the patient.**

Admission date	Age on admission	Diagnosis
June	50	Sunburn unspecified
June	28	Heatstroke and sunstroke
June	76	Sunburn unspecified
June	6	Sunburn unspecified

Admission date	Age on admission	Diagnosis
June	34	Heatstroke and sunstroke
June	34	Heatstroke and sunstroke
June	30	Sunburn unspecified
June	30	Sunburn unspecified
June	30	Sunburn unspecified
June	2	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	42	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	98	Heatstroke and sunstroke
July	41	Sunburn unspecified

3. The number of A&E attendances and/or admission episodes between 1 June 2020 and 31 August 2020 with a diagnosis of sunburn and/or effects of heat and light. For each instance recorded please specify the diagnosis, the date of the episode and age of the patient.

Admission date	Age on admission	Diagnosis
June	65	Sunburn unspecified
June	38	Sunburn unspecified
July	18	Heatstroke and sunstroke

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**