

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: 04.23.67

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

Email only

24<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 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 IDS Blood Culture and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**In June 2022 NHS England published a document entitled ‘Improving the blood culture pathway’ which included a few recommendations regarding blood culture collection and data that should be collected and reported on at Board level. Can you please provide me with answers to the following questions:**

**1. Does your Trust have a process for skin preparation/cleaning prior to blood collection? Y/N**

Yes

**2. Do you take two sets of blood cultures each time as recommended in the guidance? Y/N**

No

**3. If no, what percentage of patients do have two sets of blood cultures taken?**

7.5%

**4. Do you measure the volume of blood taken each time a blood culture is taken (the recommended amount is 20ml per sample)? Y/N**

The specimen reception team check that blood cultures have the minimum amount in as part of the pre-analytical checks but the volume is not recorded. The Trust are currently in the process of installing new software which will allow this to be captured automatically when loaded onto the analysers.

**5. Do you measure the time between blood sample collection and the sample being loaded onto an analyser instrument (the recommended maximum time is four hours)? Y/N**

Yes

**6. If yes, what is the average time?**

2 hours and 51 minutes.

**7. Do you collect data on blood sample contamination? Y/N**

No

**8. Is the data described above reported at Board level as recommended?**

'Time to load' is a key metric in the pathology quality assurance dashboard which is reported regionally.

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**