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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 01.24.109

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

Email only

20th February 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 31st January 2024 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 objects erroneously left in patients following surgery and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

**Please release the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act –
Number of objects erroneously left in patients following surgery in each of the following years: 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019.**

Incident Date: from 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2023
Cause 1: Retained Foreign Object Post-Operation

Incidents where items were intentionally left were excluded (for example ones which were identified during a procedure but where removal would risk further harm).

Year	Number of incidents (using above criteria)
2019	2
2020	1
2021	3
2022	0
2023	0

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