

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: 02.24.94

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

Email only

25th March 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 29th February 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 Diagnostic Equipment and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. The number of a) MRI scanners, b) CT scanners and c) ultrasound machines the trust had in each of the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CT	3	4	5	5	5
MRI	3	3	3	3	3
Ultrasound	26	26	27	27	27

- 2. The number of tests the trust carried out using a) MRI scanners, b) CT scanners and c) ultrasound machines in each of the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023**

Exams	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CT	49,709	49,853	62,953	69,815	81,177
MRI	19,367	21,010	29,757	31,229	34,172
Ultrasound	74,396	61,212	70,261	74,608	83,069

3. The amount spent on repairing the trust's a) MRI scanners, b) CT scanners and c) ultrasound machines in each of the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

The Trust has a Managed Equipment Service with Philips.

The Trust are unable to provide the information as requested on the grounds that this information is commercially sensitive and has, therefore, been withheld pursuant to Section 43 of the Act.

Section 43 (2) exempts from disclosure the following:

(2) Information, the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person including those of the public authority holding the information.

Our supplier has made clear representation that pricing for the service is commercially sensitive information, the disclosure of which would be likely to prejudice their commercial interests, as it would provide alternative bidders with an understanding of their costs (which would not be reciprocated) with respect to similar contracts in the NHS, thereby undermining their ability to tender, on fair and equal terms, for such contracts. The Trust considers that there is potential for such harm to arise with reasonable proximity and, therefore, that the exemption under Section 43(2) of the Act is engaged.

The Trust acknowledges the public interest in publication of the information; specifically the interest in transparency with respect to expenditure on services, as a means of assisting the taxpayer in evaluating their value for money. However, there is a competing public interest in preserving fair market competition and the ability of public authorities to obtain value for money when sourcing services. In previous rulings the Information Commissioner has made clear that the Freedom of Information Act is not intended to distort fair market competition. In this case, the Trust therefore considers that the public interest in preserving fair competition outweighs the general public interest in transparency and is therefore applying the exemption under Section 43(2).

Overall details of the managed contract are available on our contract register: [County Durham and Darlington - Information for Suppliers \(cddft.nhs.uk\)](https://cddft.nhs.uk)

4. The number of days at least one of the trust's a) MRI scanners, b) CT scanners and c) ultrasound machines were unavailable for use because it was broken in each of the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

Under the MES agreement with Philips the measure of the uptime is based on annual uptime 98%. No CT, Ultrasound or MRI at the trust fell below the uptime threshold.

5. The number of tests the trust has had to cancel due to a broken a) MRI scanner, b) CT scanner and c) ultrasound machine in each of the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

The Trust does not collect this data.

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.cddffoi@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