

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: 05.24.28

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

Email only

4th June 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 14th May 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 Audiology Services and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

To better understand how your trust deals with audiology services, please clarify whether your Acute Trust provides these services:

- a) In-house (i.e. delivered in your NHS Acute Trust or provided by another NHS organisation)**
- b) Outsourced (i.e. delivered by an independent provider in their care setting)**
- c) Insourced (i.e. delivered by an independent provider in your care setting)**

Additionally, please provide the following data for your Acute Trust and for each financial year 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24:

Hearing assessments

- 1. How many patients had a hearing assessment within the following settings and what was the total spending in £ on treating these patients (where possible please could you give the data per independent provider contracted):**
 - a) In-house**
 - b) Outsourced**
 - c) Insourced**

Hearing aid fittings

1. How many patients had a hearing aid fitting assessment within the following settings and what was the total spending in £ on treating these patients (where possible please could you give the data per independent provider contracted):
 - a) In-house
 - b) Outsourced
 - c) Insourced

Hearing aid aftercare

1. How many patients had hearing aid aftercare performed within the following settings and what was the total spending in £ on treating these patients (where possible please could you give the data per independent provider contracted):
 - a) In-house
 - b) Outsourced
 - c) Insourced

Hearing aid devices

1. How many hearing aid devices were delivered to patients within the following settings and what was the total spend £ on hearing aid devices for these patients in (where possible please could you give the data per independent provider contracted):
 - a) In-house
 - b) Outsourced
 - c) Insourced

Please see the attached spreadsheet that you required to be completed.

The Trust does not centrally record this information and in the way that you have asked 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 all invoices. 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.

Other

1. Could you please provide a copy of the service specification given to all bidders for when the contract for hearing aid services was last advertised?

Not Applicable

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