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Request for Information Reference: 07.21.13

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

Email only

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 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.

Firstly please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond. Your request was in relation to Ophthalmology examinations and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. The number of eye examinations held in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, broken down quarterly if possible.**
- 2. The number of diagnoses of wet and dry macular degeneration, brain tumour(s), and open-angle, angle-closure, and secondary glaucoma which might have been detected by an eye examination in the years 2019, 2020, and 2021, broken down quarterly if possible.**
- 3. The number of people diagnosed with sight loss, or partial sight loss, or other visual impairment, for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.**
- 5. Where this information is held, I would like the above information to be broken down by age range, ethnicity, and gender.**

Please find enclosed a spreadsheet showing the data you have requested.

- 4. An estimate of the number of people whose conditions above have become significantly worse because of the lower rates of eye exams during Covid.**

The Trust would not estimate the number of people whose conditions have become significantly worse because of the lower rates of eye exams during Covid-19. In addition the Trust does not centrally record this information 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

hundreds of sets of patient's notes. 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.

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. I am sorry that I have not been able to provide all of the information you requested, however I hope that my explanation as to why this is not possible has been satisfactory. 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**