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Request for Information Reference: 07.21.20

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

Email only

5th August 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 9th 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.

Your request was in relation to Smear Tests and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. **Please could you tell me the number of women for each month between June 2015 and June 2021 whose smear tests have shown that they have:**
 - a) HPV?
 - b) Abnormal cells?
2. **Please could you also tell me how many smear tests were done in each month, so that I can express this as a percentage of total smear tests?**
3. **If you have the information, please could you tell me what the average time was between smear tests for individual patients (ie, they had them on average every three years 2 months etc) for each month from June 2015 to June 2021?**

Please find enclosed a spreadsheet with all of the relevant figures that you have requested. The Trust is unable to provide data for the full timeframe in your request as the service has moved to Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust. We would advise you in line with Section 16 of the FOIA (duty to provide assistance) to request the remaining data from Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust. Their FOI team can be contacted via ghnt.foi.enquiries@nhs.net

Please note in respect of question three this information is not centrally recorded and as a result in order to answer the Trust would need to review the patient records for any patient who attended the relevant clinics in order to determine the regularity of

testing. To collate the data would exceed the permitted timescale within the act 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 and quarter 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. 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