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Request for Information Reference: 01.22.16

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Email only

26th January 2022

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 10th January 2022 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 cleaning areas between patients and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Please can you inform me of the trusts policy regarding cleaning areas in between patients to prevent covid infection? I am particularly concerned with what happens in higher turnover outpatients departments such as diabetic eye tests and yearly check-ups, audiology etc. Are areas cleaned in between patients, and do staff have allocated time after each patient to disinfect, or is it just a 'if they have time' or in addition to the other daily duties they already have?

Trust guidance is for all areas and equipment that patients come into contact with are cleaned and disinfected between patients. Generally a two in one product called Tristel Fuse is utilised for this however staff can also use a universal wipe or detergent wipe followed by an alcohol wipe. Waiting areas are cleaned with the same solutions a minimum of two times per day.

It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that cleaning is carried out between patients and there is ample time allowed to ensure that delays to clinics are avoided.

Please note that the Trust has a different policy in place where infection is confirmed or suspected. This involves quarantining and deeper cleaning of a room.

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