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Request for Information Reference: 01.22.27

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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 17th 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 assault attendances to ED and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

Data required (for period between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021

We require the gender of the patient (M or F), the date that they attended due to assault (dd/mm/yyyy) and their age. Age can either be numerical to the nearest year (preferred) or in age bands (“0-10”, “11-17”, “18-30”, “31-50”, “51+”), we can also accept date of birth.

To calculate the level of assault-related injury in England and Wales we also require the total number of attendances for any reason in the year of interest, i.e. 2021.

Please also include the names of hospitals providing the assault data.

Due to the information you have requested and the small number of patients in some categories, the Trust felt that disclosing this information would breach one of the data protection principles contained in the Data Protection Act 2018 (which supplements the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into effect in May 2018) in that it would render it possible to identify the individuals. We do not believe that it would be fair to the individuals for their identities to be made public. We therefore believe that the exemption contained within section 40 of the Act is engaged.

The Trust has assessed the risk that the identities of the individual patients could be inferred, and judges that possibility to be real. It has therefore taken the decision to withhold this information under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act. The Trust is relying, in part, on the absolute exemption available under Section 40(3) (a) (i), where information would be shared in contravention of the principles in the Data Protection Act and the qualified exemption in Section (40) (3) (a) (ii), where the numbers published could allow the identify of individual patients to be inferred causing damage or distress to themselves or their families.

The Trust can however provide the information in the following formats; by month, by gender and by age group.

ED attendances with Assault related injury by Month

Site	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Total 2021
DMH	8	12	16	20	17	18	18	20	14	27	15		185
UHND	9	11	15	18	22	13	16	16	10	11	15		156

ED attendances with Assault related injury by Age and Sex

Site	Age banding	Pt sex	Count
DMH	0-10	Male	1
DMH	11-17	Female	5
DMH	11-17	Male	17
DMH	18-30	Female	26
DMH	18-30	Male	57
DMH	31-50	Female	26
DMH	31-50	Male	39
DMH	51+	Female	8
DMH	51+	Male	8
UHND	11-17	Female	9
UHND	11-17	Male	24
UHND	18-30	Female	24
UHND	18-30	Male	39
UHND	31-50	Female	19
UHND	31-50	Male	27
UHND	51+	Female	4
UHND	51+	Male	10

Total A&E Attends by Age and Sex

Site	Age banding	Pt sex	Total
DMH	0-10	Female	1091
DMH	0-10	Male	1293
DMH	11-17	Female	2290
DMH	11-17	Male	2514
DMH	18-30	Female	5894
DMH	18-30	Male	5803
DMH	31-50	Female	7203
DMH	31-50	Male	7314
DMH	51+	Female	15356
DMH	51+	Male	14230
UHND	0-10	Female	1902
UHND	0-10	Male	2461
UHND	11-17	Female	2583
UHND	11-17	Male	2450
UHND	18-30	Female	8320
UHND	18-30	Male	7566
UHND	31-50	Female	8470
UHND	31-50	Male	8236
UHND	51+	Female	18494
UHND	51+	Male	17693
			141163

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. 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