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Request for Information Reference: 07.22.51

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Email only

19<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 21<sup>st</sup> July 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 tier 3 and 4 weight management and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. The number of primary bariatric surgery operations\* performed by financial year, from 2017/18 to 2021/22**  
*(\*including operations in private hospitals where these were used to provide additional capacity for the NHS)*

Description	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Balloon Insertion	4	1	2		1
Gastric Bypass	54	63	45	9	33
Removal of Balloon	2	1	2	2	1
Removal of Gastric Band	7	4	5	3	6
Sleeve Gastrectomy	25	36	23	5	27
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>68</b>

**a. The mean average wait from admission to Tier 4 services to surgery, by financial year, from 2017/18 to 2021/22.**

<b>Fiscal year</b>	<b>Average Wait Days</b>
2017/2018	97.5
2018/2019	124.5
2019/2020	129.3
2020/2021	224.4
2021/2022	257.6

**2. How many patients are on your bariatric surgery RTT (referral to treatment) waiting list at present?**  
 • and at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.

The Trust does not keep yearly figures for this. There is currently 66 patients on the bariatric surgery waiting list.

**3. The number of people enrolled within your Tier 3 weight management services:**  
 • at present – 199  
 • and at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.

2021-2022 – 132  
 2020-2021 – 64  
 2019-2020 – 591

Please note that prior to 2019 the Trust used a paper based system therefore the data is not centrally recorded and we estimate 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 the sets of paper records to determine how many patients were enrolled on the Tier 3 weight management service. 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.

**4. The number of people enrolled within your Tier 4 services:**  
 • at present,  
 • and at the end of each financial year from 2017/18 to 2021/22.

The Trust does not centrally record Tier 4 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 the sets of bariatric patient's to determine if they are tier 4. 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. 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**