

Executive Corridor
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 09.22.01

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

Email only

12th September 2022

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 1st September 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 Pet Therapy and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. Has the Trust ever used any form of pet therapy or animal assisted therapy in your hospitals?**

No

- 2. If your Trust has used such services how have they been provided to the Trust i.e. Voluntary or funded by the Trust and has this remained the same or changed between voluntary and funded?**
- 3. What do you estimate the cost to be to the Trust of using animal assisted therapy by year for the last 5 years (if applicable?)**
- 4. Who is responsible within the Trust for organising Pet Therapy Services?**

Not applicable

- 5. What policies and procedures have been put in place as safeguards for using animals in hospitals?**

The Trust is currently in the process of developing a policy covering this subject.

6. What qualifications / certifications does the Trust expect therapy animals to hold to guarantee patient safety?

The Trust would explore this if we were to progress with the use of therapy animals.

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