

FOI REF: 24/259

24th April 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500  
Website: [www.esht.nhs.uk](http://www.esht.nhs.uk)

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

**I would like to request the following data please:**

- 1) Which, if any, 'sample tracking system' is used in your histology (histopathology) service?**

Roche Vantage.

- 2) If applicable, the cost of the respective sample tracking systems used.**

The information you have requested is exempt under section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the information would originally have been provided in confidence. Information is exempt information if –

- (a) it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and,
- (b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

Whilst the Trust holds the information requested, it is applying a Section 43(2) exemption in relation to this part of the request as the release of the information is likely to prejudice its commercial interests.

In applying the exemption consideration has been given to the public interest in enabling scrutiny of public sector decision making and the general public interest in accountability and transparency.

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We have concluded that sharing commercials could disadvantage the supplier against their competitors and may leave the Trust open to a legal challenge. In this instance, we consider that the public interest in withholding the information is greater than the public interest in disclosing the information.

**3) The total number of reported lost histology (histopathology) specimens, from within pathology dating from 2020 - present date.**

None.

**4) The average time spent searching for further work requested blocks.**

3 to 4 minutes if in local storage. 2 to 3 days if in offsite storage.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department ([esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department  
[esh-tr.foi@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.foi@nhs.net)