

FOI REF: 24/862

23rd December 2024

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: 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:

1) Does the trust/UHB outsource wet surgical specimens?

Yes.

2) If so, how many specimens are outsourced per annum?

6203 in 2023.

3) What is the subspecialty of the outsourced specimens? E.g. Skin, Endoscopy etc. Please breakdown if possible.

Urology, Gynaecology, Breast, Skin & Gastrointestinal.

4) How much does the trust/UHB spend per annum on outsourced wet specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

2021/22 = £311,276.

2022/23 = £217,801.

2023/24 = £220,933.

5) Does the trust report in house on wet processed specimens or is this done externally?

Externally.

6) Which organisation(s) does the trust outsource the wet specimen processing to?

Source BioScience.

7) Does the trust/UHB outsource blocks for processing?

No.

8) How much does the trust spend per annum on outsourced block specimen processing? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

Not applicable.

9) a) Is there a backlog of unreported specimens with the trust/UHB?

Yes.

b) If so, for how many patients total?

1141.

10) What are the current turnaround times (TAT) for the processing of wet specimens within the trust/UHB?

9.9 days.

11) Does the trust outsource for tissue staining?

No.

12) How much does the trust/UHB spend on outsourced staining per annum? Please breakdown for the fiscal years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24.

Not applicable.

13) What is the current TA for wet reporting externally?

13.5 days.

14) Does the trust/UHB have a minimum contracted volume with outsourcers?

No.

15) What is the min, mean, and max cost for wet work alone?

The minimum cost is £100.

The mean cost is £257.

The maximum cost is £530.

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16) What is the cost for professional external reporting?

The cost for 2023/24 is £220,933.

17) How many cases are reported by the trust annually?

32,000.

18) What percentage is outsourced for professional work?

56%.

19) What percentage is outsourced for technical work?

20%.

20) How many pathologists does the trust/UHB employ?

8.6 (Whole-Time Equivalent).

21) How many cases on average does a single pathologist report annually?

1526 cases.

22) Does the trust/UHB have a digital slide scanner?

Yes.

23) If so, who is the manufacturer of the scanner? e.g. Phillips, Leica etc.

Hamamatsu Photonics.

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), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

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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